AN

EARLY-DAY HISTORY

OF

BRISCOE COUNTY (Texas)

AND

HER PEOPLE

By

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Plainview, Texas

1949

80

DEDICATED TO

THE PIONEERS WHO BLAZED THE TRAILS OF CIVILIZATION WESTWARD

Some one has said:

"A nation ashamed of its ancestry will be despised by its

Posterity."

T A B L E   O F   C O N T E N T S

P R E F A C E

It has been my purpose to feature the pioneers who settled Briscoe County up to 1900. Much more could have been said of many of these families but for the following facts: First, that many could not be located; second, so many gave such meager information, they seemed to be afraid I was trying to convict them of cow or horse stealing; third, I did not begin to go among people until I was physically unable to do so.

It seems necessary because of ill health that I bring this history to a close.

The Las Lenguas Canon mentioned is what we have always called "Linguish."

Briscoe County or other counties of Texas are rarely, if ever, followed by the name of the state, but in each instance Texas is meant.

INTRODUCTORY.

The idea of writing a history of the early settlers of Briscoe County, and especially those that really settled here in the 1890's, is not a new one. Such an idea has been in my mind for years.

The history of any county of the Panhandle or of West Texas is fascinating because it reads like romances of a peculiar sort. The history of the Indians here was one of peculiar interest to me in many ways. The wild, free life with all its hardships was probably one of considerable happiness to the Indians. No one could blame the Indians for wanting to keep the country for themselves. The life of the rancher, as typified by Charles Goodnight and all the cowboys that worked for the Palo Duro, Quitaque and Tule Ranches, was fascinating. Such freedom really became a part of them.

The ranches referred to above practically contained all of Briscoe County and have been interestly written of by Harley T. Burton of Clarendon under the title, THE HISTORY OF THE JA RANCH.

John Ruskin said,"One should not write a book unless he felt he could do it better than some one else". Without laying any claims to such an idea I shall say a few words about why I have undertaken such a work as this.

First of all I have always considered myself as a public servant. That idea has been my guiding force through the years that I have spent in service to my fellowman in what ever capacity I have worked for them. I taught school feeling that way. I practiced medicine for 43 long years feeling that way. I want to feel that I am rendering my people a service in this

little volume. I want no greater reward than to have it said of me when I am gone that like David,"He served his generation by the will of God and fell on sleep." Acts 13:36.

Second, as one of the participants in the settling of Briscoe County. I attended the very first school that was taught in the county. I helped H. Cris Seaman make the tax-rolls in 1897 and again in 1898. I taught school 5 different years in the county from 1894 to 1901. I practiced medicine here from 1916 to 1921. These contacts provided me with a knowledge of the people and the county as well.

Third, I was born in the figures and have a knack for dates. I have cultivated my memory for dates and names of people and that will be of some help in this work.

It is with fear and trembling that I submit this for your approval or otherwise. Since much of this is strictly from memory, I will make mistakes - all do that. However, it is with the utmost care that I have tried to be correct in every detail as I saw it.

If I should seem to be partial toward any one it will probably be because of the fact that such a one touched and influenced my life more than others with whom I was not so much thrown. It seems that my life has been very democratic and that I should not be accused of showing favoritism toward any one. May the reader be charitable toward me.

A POEM.

"MY FAVORITE PEOPLE"

In my book of 'favorite people'
There are pages old and new,
And the ones that mean the most are those
Reserved for folks like you.

Above, <u>From a Verse On A Valentine</u>.

ANOTHER POEM.

Around the corner I have a Friend,
In this great city that has no end;
Yet, days go by and weeks rush on,
And, before I know it a year has gone,
And I never see my old friend's face;
For life is a swift and a terrible race;
He knows that I like him just as well
as in the days when I rang his bell
And he rang mine--we were younger then;
And now we are tired and busy men-
Tired with trying to make a name;
"Tomorrow" I say, I will call on Jim"
Just to show him that I am thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And the distance between us grows and grows,
Around the corner--yet miles away-
Here's a telegram sir, "Jim died today".
And that is what we get and deserve in the end.
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

THE PRAIRIE SCHOONER

Quoted from E. E. Dale's
PRAIRIE SCHOONER AND OTHER POEMS
by Edward Everett Dale.

When I see a prairie schooner
   With the tongue a-pointing west
What a mighty nameless longing
   Always swells and fills my breast
For it's headed toward a country
   I shall always love the best
Toward a land of stars and sunshine
   Toward the prairies of the west.

It's a wide and wondrous region
   Naught it's virgin beauty mars
Where the plains are strewn with ~~/////~~ blossoms
   As the sky is strewn with stars.
Where the air so keen and bracing
   Gives to life a joy and zest
Makes the pulses leap and tingle
   There is faith that will not die.
Though a man may meet misfortune
   Failure never is confessed
Where he mounts a prairie schooner
   With the tongue a-pointing west.

So when from the ties that bine me
   I at last shall break away,
Leave each sordid task behind me,
   As I surely shall someday.
When I choose a craft for cruising
   Love or Fortune as my guest,
It will be a prairie Schooner
   With the tongue a-pointing west.

INDIAN TRAILS AND CAMPS.

There were certain factors that made this area a particular and favorite place for the Indians. There was plenty of good water and good grass for their horses and to fatten the buffalo for their fall kill for their winter meat. The streams all had trees for shady places for their summer camps. The canons had plenty of wood for fires during the winter. I presume that the Tule canon with its tributaries had more wood than nearly all the others combined.

Primarily it is my desire to give the history of the people that settled Briscoe Country in the 1890's. However, there were so many things that occurred within the confines of this county before that time that it seems well and proper to give some attention to the more important ones.

All of the more important water courses coming from the plains had their Indian Camps and Trails leading from one camp to another. I shall mention those that have to do with this particular county and adjacent areas.

The creeks were not stretches of sand as we find them at this date, or far that matter a good many years ago, but they all had clear running water and were teeming with fish. As an example I refer you to what Uncle 'Fi' McCracken told me several years ago when asked why Whit efish Creek in Donley County was so named. He said, "When I came here the valley was covered with grasses and there was a small running stream of water in the middle and occassionaly there would be a deep hole alive with fish and here were so many that the water was white with them as they swam around each other."

The obituary of Cal Merchant who came to the Canadian

River country in 1887 and who died at Clarendon, March 10th, 1948, contained the following statement, "He spent the rest of the winter pulling giant catfish from the Canadian, then a stream with blue water in the middle".

In addition to the water and shade many of the streams and adjacent canons had graps and plums. The best wild grapes one could find any place were found in the Holmes Creek Canon in Briscoe County.

The two camping places that were afterwards known to have been in Briscoe County was the one on Las Linguas and the one in the deep Tule Canon.

The Las Linguas was probably the greatest trading camp any where in the entire Panhandle and West Texas. It was here the greater part of the horses and mules that were stolen from settlers in Parker and surrounding counties were traded to the Mexicans Comancheros. The deep Tule Canon was strictly a winter camp. Ashel Cross of Briscoe County -1947- who went to work for the JA Ranch in the spring of 1893, says,"There is an arroyo on the northside of the canon and some 3 or 4 miles from where the Tule Creek empties into the Palo Duro, that is known as tepee Pole Arroyo".

The above statement co-incides with that of the statement of the guide Henry Strong.

Dr. Angie Debo, Canyon, Texas, History and customs of the Kiowas, published in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Review, 1934, says, "The great fall hunt, made in early October when the buffalo were the fattest, was their time of harvest". Dr. Debo quotes Henry Strong, a famous guide of the Mackenzie Expeditions, who characterized the camping possibilities of

The Tule Canon: "This was always a great winter camp for the Indians, and it used to look like a great wood yard. The squaws piled dry cedar wood between the trees sometimes 15 or 20 feet apart."

Here was water, wood and grass and with their buffalo meat they could spend the winter easily enough. Toward spring they probably went eastward into the Indian Territory. As soon as the grass became strong enough the braves would make their raids on the settlers in Parker and Adjacent places to get horses and mules.

In addition to these two important camps in what is now Briscoe County there were others of note at Roaring Springs, on the Blanco Canon, the Yellowhouse Canon and Mooar's Canon further South.

Dr. A. C. Traweek, Matador, Texas and who has been in Floyd or Motley since 1890 and who was well acquainted with Quanah Parker and his son Baldwin Parker, says, "That Quanah Parker always referred to Roaring Springs as 'My Big Spring'."

The location of the Briscoe County area was stragetic. It was on the main trails from eastward and southeastward to the northwest and on into New Mexico and Santa Fe.

All Indian Camps were connected by trails. Explorers who came this way travelled them through the country from east to west. Just when these camps were established is not definitely known, but they are mentioned by Albert Pike who travelled through this region in 1832. Judge Aynesworth, Borger, Texas, now deceased, in some of his articles on the Marcy Expedition in 1852, says, "At almost every creek and especially the main rivers, and in suitable groves Indian signs etc. were visable everywhere."

Another reason for the big trail through the southern part of Briscoe County was the abrupt escarpment. From the Quitaque Peaks north to the north bank of the Palo Duro Canon the escarpments are higher and more abrupt then anywhere else along the borders of the Great Plains Area, making travel from east to west impossible at most points. This may be noticed at this date when it is observed that no highways pass near the Tule and Palo Duro Canons from east to west between these points.

Texas History is full of such episodes as how the Indians, after their raids had been made on the settlements, came over certain trails. They would be followed by men to the Wichita River, near where the present city of Witchata Falls is now located and on northwest unless perchance the settlers gave up the chase. It was over this route that the soldiers under Col. Sul Ross came when Cynthia Ann Parker was captured and returned to her family down state. Charles Goodnight was reported to have been with Col. Ross and Mr. Tom Pollard who lived for several years near McLean, Texas told the writer of his having been with Col. Ross at the time.

This route brought them to the Pease River country. Either to Tongue River and the Roaring Springs area or to the Las Linguas north of the Quitaque Peaks. While I am on this river business I should like to correct once and for all time the difference of Las Lenguas and Tongue Rivers. Many writers show a lack of the knowledge of the country. They evidently think because they mean the same that they are one and the same stream. Las Lenguas is a small stream running out of the Las Lenguas Canon and empties in to the Quitaque river just north of the ranch house,

of the old Quitaque Ranch of Adair and Goodnight. This Quitaque lower down becomes a part of the North Pease River. Tongue River is south of Matador and is in reality the South Pease River. The Old Trail that used to come this way crossed Tongue River near 12 or 15 miles southeast of Matador. More will be said of this Trail in the next paragraph. How it is so easily confused as to think they are one and the same river or creek-The two words Las Linguas, the Spanish and Tongue is English. They really both mean tongue or, the Spanish, the tongues.

Under the title, "Characteristic Similarity of Expeditions Into the Great Plains", by H. B. Carroll, published in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Review, 1937, Mr. Carroll uses the Sante Fe Expedition sent out by President Mirabeau B. Lamar in 1841. This is a wonderful article and he illustrated his title well. It is not my province to discuss the article—only as it relates to the Briscoe County area and definitely points out one of the many trails that headed this way.

This expedition was assembled around Austin and made off from Round Rock near there in May 1841 with cattle and other supplies. They go to Fort Griffin, across the Brazos River and go north passing near the western part of Montague County. From there they go northwest over Indian trails to the Wichita River where they turn southwest and westward passing the narrows just east of the present town of Benjamin. The route followed from here to the northwest lead them over Cedar Mountain, or as we have called the country 50 years later, Little Arizona. They continued northwest crossing the Wichita River about where Guthrie is located; then north west vi Tongue River, the present, Matador and northwest to the Quitaque peaks and Las Linguas. He says, they ran out of food by the time

they had reached the Narrows and had to live like the Indians.

"An attempt to move northward from this point brought the expedition to the edge of the tableland they were on; that is to the edge of the secondary plain." Quoting Carroll. "Which means that the repellant, rough-hewn brakes of the little Red Creek were reached. An encounter with the Kiowa Indians took place, whereupon the command dropped back to the Quitaque near the mouth of Linguas."

H. B. Carroll continues as follows: "General Order No. 20 of Bvt. Brig. Gen'l H. Mcleon, *"Among other things, to increase our annoyance, our hunting parties, unless made too large to hunt game, are overwhelmed by hundreds of Comanches, who hover at a most provoking distance, and prance around, in defiance of our jaded steeds."

"An advance horse party ascended to the level of the Llano Estacado, crossed the Plains. To the west of the camp ran a long line of for-bidding and grim-visaged bluffs of the llano Estacado, then thought impassable for the wagons. Northward were the known impassable brakes of the Little Red. They ascended to the level of the Llano Estacado from Cottonwood Springs on the Linguish Creek, up what is known as the Mexican Trail, which ascended the Llano Estacado about one mile south of the present highway. Proceeding over the high plains, the command camped at the Tule Canon and moved towards the present Tierra Blanco as their objective."

These horsemen finally after 13 days of travel reached Sante Fe. President Lamar's Expedition was ended.

The foregoing statements show certain things: There were Indian Camps and Trails here in 1841; they encountered the Indians and did battle with them; there was a marked trail through here at that time and it is this particular trail over which Mackenzie travelled when he subdued the Indians.

This trail over which the Sante Fe Expedition had come from Parker and Montague counties was the trail over which men came to Briscoe County prospecting. However, when they moved their families later, they came west from Matador along the Middle Pease River on to the plains in Floyd County. Those were the routes over which the people from Baylor and other counties came. The road was still crossing over the Cedar Mountain between Benjamin and Guthrie in 1891, 50 years after this expedition.

Other trails leading to the Plains were made by Indians in their travels eastward from Linguas etc. into the Indian Territory. These gave rise to roads leading from Red River in the Childress and Estelline localities. Many came those roads. One other great trail was that which led from Fort Griffin and Camp Cooper and Phantom Hill near the present town of Abilene, Texas. This was as much an Indian Trail as any that came this way. This trail was used by Mackenzie in his expedition of 1870, 1872 and 1874. This came by Double Mountain and on northwestward to the Blanco Canon. This was the route followed by those coming to Briscoe from Stephens and other counties down that way. This soon became a prominent road down state in a very early date after Mackenzie subdued the Indians.

There was a trail which started on the Tule Canon near what is and was known as the Chimney Crossing. This went south about ½ to 1 mile west of the Briscoe County line passing through the John Blackerby, W. W. Reid, and George Reid places and continuing south near the W. Ed Burleson place and on through the Blanco Canon. There was no other reason for a road here except for use by the Indians going from the Tule to the Blanco Canon.

The trail that we call the Mackenzie Trail was there before he was born but to honor him, who wrought so well,

For this great section of the state, it is and should be called the Mackenzie Trail.

Mention has been made of the Comancheros, the Mexicans who traded with the Indians. J. Evetts Haley, Canyon, Texas, while in the employ of the W. T. S. College and the State University at Austin, Texas, made a very intensive study of the trails through these parts. In his article on the Comancheros published in his book, Charles Goodnight, Cowman and Plainsman, and, also in a similar article published in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, January 1935, He gives a definite course for a southern and a northern trail.

Quoting a few of his observations:

"In 1805, a Caddo told John Sibley that he had traded and visited in Sante Fe forty years before, apparently the trade was established by the middle of the 18th Century, and grew in volume and significance with the years."

"Albert Pike, the explorer, left Bosque Redondo, on the Pecos September 21st, 1832 and crossed over the southern trail by way of the lakes to Yellow House Canon."

"The northern trail came out of New Mexico by way of Tucumcari Mountain and forked near the Texas line. The left fork continued down the Canadian, along the Fort Smith road, to a trading ground at Las Tecovas, or Sanborn Springs, near Amarillo. The right branch turned to the southeast and followed the Palo Duro to a site near the present town of Canyon. Then, turned south to strike the Tule above the breaks, proceeding to the foot of the plains on the Quitaque, and came to camps on the head branches on the heads of the Pease Rivers."

Following this trail southeastward by way of the Double Mountain to Fort Griffin and you have a pretty definite idea of what was known as the Mackenzie Trail.

Settlers of Briscoe County, north part of Floyd and the eastern edge of Swisher County followed this trail to Amarillo for supplies crossing the Palo Duro Canon almost due south of Washington street some 8 or 10 miles from its intersection with 36th Avenue - the present highway from Canyon and the southwest.

What has been given in regard to these Indian Camps and Trails was not to discuss them in full nor to discuss the articles from which the information was taken. The purpose was to get a clear insight of them that we might see how Briscoe County was involved with them.

The Mackenzie Trail entered the county from the southeast just as the Quitaque Creek was crossed below its junction with the Las Linguas. Since being surveyed we will say it entered the county on section 24, Block 3. From here it took a northwesterly course and crossed the corners of quarters of sections 23, 22, 15, 16, 11, 10, 8 or Block 3; thence a little more westerly through sections 129 and 128 to Cottonwood Springs; thence northerly through sections 114 and 115 in Block G & M; coming up the escarpment near the southeast part of section one Block B 1; northwesterly through section one; then, nearly west through the sough part of sections, 9, 14, 23, 39; then a little northwesterly through sections 54, 67, 68, 79, 94, 21, 22,19, 18, 17, 15 to 202; thence, westerly around the head of the draws and Rock Creek through sections 202, 207, 208, 213, and 214 into Swisher County. From here it is about 3 miles to the head of the Tule.

INDIAN CAMPAIGNS-GEN. MILES

Plans were made in 1874 to rid the country of the Indians. The battle of Adobe Walls, June 27, 1874, was one of the decisive battles of the campaign, but since we are not trying to cover the entire subject of the Indian removal, and since it did not reach into Briscoe County, we will leave the matter of the Adobe Walls battle to rest with the above statements.

REPORT OF GEN. NELSON A. MILES OF HIS OPERATIONS
(Aug. 1874 to March 4th, 1875)

The full report may be found in the Museum at Canyon, Texas and through the kindness of the Curator, C. Boone McClure, I was allowed to copy it. I herewith quote from this report about Indian Hostilities in Briscoe County.

"Sir: - I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Indian Terriory Expedition:"

In compliance with Special Order No. 114, Series, 1874, Headquarters Department of the Missouri, the expedition was organized at Fort Dodge, Kansas, in the early part of August, 1874. It consisted of eight companies of the Sixth Cavalry, which were organized as two equal battalions, commanded by Majors Compton and Biddle, Sixth Cavalry; four companies of the Fifth Infantry, from which details were made to form an artillery detachment (commanded by Lieut. J. W. Pope, Fifth Infantry), and a detachment of thirty-nine guides and trailers under First Lieut. F. D. Baldwin, Fifth Infantry.

For convenience in rendering a report the operations of the command may be described as five distinct movements."

I. As the command moved from Fort Dodge to Camp Supply, Major Compton with his battalion, one company of infantry, and the guides left Fort Dodge, moving by the direct route."

"From the crossing on the Beaver, near Kiowa Creek, a Scouting party of forth-nine men, under command of Lieut. F. D. Baldwin proceeded along the line of the Palo Duro (tributary of Beaver) to Adobe Walls, on the candaian River, arriving there in time to repulse a second attack upon that place, made by a small band of Indians, near the mouth of Chicken Creek, killed one and wounded another, and rejoined the main command, which mean time had moved down from Camp Supply via of Wolf and Commission Creeks, twelve miles east of the Antelope Hills, Aug 24th."

"With the advance of the command, the hostile Cheyennes, Kiowas and Comanches, who had been camped in the vicinity, retired from the Sweetwater, North Fork and McClelland Creeks, concentrating as they moved southwestward."

They were rapidly pursued by the light and effective portion of the command for one hundred miles to a point some twelve miles north of Red River, opposite the mouth of the Tule, where and engagement took place (Aug 30) with some 600 warriors, they having selected a line of bluffs some five or six miles in extent from which they made the first attack on the advance; this was speedily repulsed. At the opening of the fight the dash and courage usual in savage warfare were exhibited, but as the command was rapidly deployed, and the offensive immediately assured, the field was cleared and the Indians driven over rugged bluffs, through deep and precipitous canons across Red River, through their burning villages into the Tule Canon and out onto the Staked Plains to the Southwest. With their strength, position and almost insurmountable natural obstacles, they should have contended against

several thousand troop, instead of being routed and driven twenty miles over almost impassable country by inferior forces to their own in point of numbers."

During the time required to bring up supplies from my train over a very broken country, to make a practical route over the rugged bluffs out from the deep canons and up the precipitous banks of the Tule, and to detremine by pursuit of the Indians beyond the head of the Tule, thirty-five miles from Red River, that they had gone directly out onto the Staked Plains beyond any of the tributaries of the Red River, my supplies were so exhausted as not to have warranted my crossing the Staked Plains, even if I had had means of carrying water, and it became necessary to return to replenish."

Mr. Harley True Burton in his, History of the JA Ranch, quotes Gen. Nelson A. Miles on the battle of August 1874 as follows: " About 4 O'clock in the morning about 250 Indians were located in the hilly country on Red River. The battle began at once. Major Compton rode in front of his command, waving his hat, and led the charge into the hills, and as the sudden onslaughter from all the lines created dismay of the Indians, they retreated precipitously, and were followed for twenty miles over the roughest country that I had seen until that time, ever seen men fight upon. Over rugged hills and buttes and the rugged ravines, and across the dry bed of Red River, which was now covered with drifting sands, where at times a great river flows; then, up the right bank into the canon of the Tule, a branch of Red River, through the burning camps abandoned, went the

flying Indians. The retreat and pursuit were kept up with utmost energy, descending into the deep canons and scaling bluffs almost impassable, some portion of the Indians, now and then, attempting to stem the tide at some favorite point, upon which the troops would instantly charge and carry their stronghold, until at last the Indians were so closely pressed that they could not make a showing of reforming but sped away demoralized and in full flight."

The following quotations I selected from Gen. Nelson A. Miles's report.

"While this movement was in progress a large body of Kiowas and Comanches, numbering about 250 warriors, supposed to be friendly, left their agency and assumed hostilities. First Lieut. F. D. Baldwin, Fifth Infantry, while enroute from the command, and my supply train, with escort, commanded by Capt. Lyman, Fifth Infantry, was detained for four days near the Washita by the persistent attacks of some 250 Indians; all of these were handsomely repulsed. The Indians who attacked the train and couriers were those who had recently left the Wichita Agency; this party divided after their final repulse by the troops, a part going southwest to the Staked Plains and a part going eastward; these were followed beyond the Antelope Hills and surrendered; a part of them at the Cheyenne Agency and a part at the Fort Sill Reservation."

Gen. Miles was at Adobe Walls when he recéived instructions to establish a winter cantonment. He was desirous of scouting the Red Rivers for any Indians before closing the active operations of the campaign. From the first of September, 1874, to the first of

February, 1875. "With two companies of Infantry and one of Cavalry, I marched south from the head of Custer Creek, Jan. 2, 1875, to the Palo Duro or Red River thence to Canada Blanco and the head of the Tule, turning east to the mouth of the Tulé, and there crossing Red River. A flanking party proceeded down the canons of Canada Blanco and the Red River, rejoining the command at the mouth of the Tule. He continues by stating they went eastward as far as Fort Sill and then returned to the Cantonments.

The above mentioned cantonment was established on what is known to this day as Cantonment Creek near the east line of Gray county north of North Fork. In his report he "recommends that a post be established there or near there". Such recommendation was evidently followed, as Fort Elliott was established on Sweetwater Creek north east of Cantonment in 1875. The location was better on account of being adjacent to a fine field for military operations just to the north. Some two miles north of the site of Old Fort Elliott was a small elevation which was no doubt used for observations.

Let us make a few observations concerning this winter scouting of Gen. Miles. He says he came to the Palo Duro which he no doubt crossed south of the present site of Amarillo. Then, to Canon Canada Blanco. One place he referred to them as conons. Evidently he meant the two canons we know as Canon Cito Blanco in Randall County. No mention is made of there being any signs of the destruction of the camps by Col. Mackenzie in September before this scouting in January. He says they went to the head of the Tule. He must have meant the head of the creek and not the head of the canon as no mention is made of the dead horses and mules.

The two lines of soldiers, one going eastward to the mouth of the Tule and the other down the Palo Duro Canon, evidently encountered no Indians. He reported the weather as being extremely cold and almost unbearable. I suppose they were in a hurry and did not scout the head of the Tule Canon to see the dead horses. Again, had I been giving a report on such an occassion I think I should have said something about the battle we had with the Indians at the mouth of the Tule in August before this date.

This report has been given to prove that there was an Indian battle in Briscoe County, Aug. 30, 1874 and that this later scouting by Gen. Miles in Jan. 1875 was through the county as well.

It was from this battle that Battle Creek in Briscoe County received its name. The headwaters of this creek being near the Palo Duro Headquarters of the JA Ranch. Those who know the lay of the country can easily see exactly where this battle was fought. Many cartridges were found in the vicinity mentioned which helps to prove that there had been a battle there.

This account by Gen. Miles shows conclusively why there were so many Indians found in the Tule and Palo Duro Canons when Col. Mackenzie came four weeks later. They were hiding in the deep canons rather than take to the Staked Plains as Gen. Miles suggested. He might have to follow them across, as he seemed to think possible.

THE LAST CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE INDIANS

Harley True Burton, of Clarendon, in "A HISTORY OF THE JA RANCH", says, "An expedition in 1860 by Sergeant John W. Spangler of Company H. of the Fifth Cavalry and a detachment of State Troops from Camp Cooper, marched north to the Pease River (on what was later a part of the F Ranch) and encountered a band of Comanches."

Quoting J. Evetts Haley again:

"Col. R. S. Mackenzie using the Comancheros as guides scouted the southern trail across to the Pecos. His return by way of Fort Bascom and the head of the Palo Duro approximated the Comanchero trail to the Quitaque, which trail is inadvertenly referred to as the Mackenzie Trail."

This excursion was evidently made in 1872 as will be rather definitely shown later.

"General Mackenzie returning to the Panhandle (1874 here evidently), in the course of his scouting, captured old Jose Pieda Tafoya who was venturing across the Plains in pursuit of trade."

"As a guide, said Goodnight, Tafoya was a wonder and he knew the Plains from the Palo Duro to the Concho by heart."

One of the most prominent traders was this Jose Pieda Tafoya, who was backed by the commanding officer at Fort Bascom and a merchant at Hatch Ranch- - - - -At the Quitaque, from 1865 to 1867, he traded for thousands of cattle, among them hundreds bearing the brands of Sheek, Loving and Goodnight. From the colorful breaks of the Quitaque, his peons pointed them northwest to strike the Fort Smith road leading along the Canadian."

"Thinking he might have information of value, the veteran campaigner tried to get him to talk, but Jose's lips were sealed by fear of the Comanches, and all he knew was 'no sabe'. Then, according to the buffalo hunters, Mackenzie propped up the tongue of a wagon and hanged Tafoya to the end until he was glad to talk...and when Tafoya's feet again touched the ground he really did sabe,

and, furthermore, he agreed to lead the troops to the Indian camp in the recesses of the Palo Duro Canon."

INDIAN CAMPAIGNS-MACKENZIE

We will now turn our attention to the operations of Col. R. S. Mackenzie, since it is through Briscoe County that the trail over which he travelled, runs.

We have noticed under camps and trails that two important trails were situated in the county. We have already discussed them at length. It is therefore, an important part of the history of the county to see how the Indians were finally routed from this part of the state.

Your attention is called to the fact that Briscoe County had not so much as been named.

Quoting from an article published in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Review, 1935, by R. C. Crane, a noted research man on things appertaining to this part of the state.

"General Mackenzie (then a colonel) probably did more than any other man to settle the Indian question on the frontiers of Texas. With a column of troop he moved northward from the Texas Department. His force consisted of eight companies of Cavalry, five of infantry and 30 Indian Scouts. He operated from his Camp Supply base located on the fresh water Fork of the Brazos River, and drew his supplies from Fort Griffin in Shackelford County, one-hundred miles away."

It seems that he had used this trail in 1870 and again in 1872. The location gave rise to the name of Soldier's Mound in that Vicinity.

Different places down state have been given as starting points for Col. Mackenzie and his forces.

Some even stating that he started from the Rio Grande River. It seems to me that the next quotation should settle that particular thing.

"Fort McKavitt, Texas" by Col. M. L. Crimmins and published in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, July 1934, has this to say. "Fort McKavitt was established, March 14, 1852. The following troops were stationed here between 1852 and 1883".

All the different commands were mentioned, but for the purpose of this article, only one will be mentioned.

"The 4th Cavalry, February 1, 1874 to August 18, 1874, under Col. R. S. Mackenzie."

In a letter to Col. R. P. Smyth, Plainview, Texas, and published in the Floyada Hesperian, May 16, 1946, Eugene Beck who was with Mackenzie "from some time in 1873 until after the battle of the Palo Duro, and the killing of the horses on the Tule," says, " They left Fort McKavitt, August 19th, 1874." No comment needed.

Quoting from Harley True Burton's HISTORY OF THE JA RANCH, "Col. R. S. Mackenzie left Fort McKavitt, Aug 19, 1874, headed for the Indian Camps with which he was familiar. He again established camp at his location of 1872 on the Catfish Creek which is the creek running out of the Blanco Canon. He had 400 men in all including 20 Seminole Indian Scouts and 12 Tonkawa brave."

He came by trail over which he travelled to Quitaque Creek. From there the command proceeded northwestward to the Tule Creek above the beginning of the Tule Canon. They arrived there the 24th of September.

During the night the Indians made a charge through the camp hoping to scare their horses to stampede them. Failing to do this they established themselves in the breaks about 300 yards away and kept up a continual firing upon the camp until daybreak, when Mackenzie charged and routed them. "It must be borne in mind that Col. Mackenzie had not been sent to the Panhandle to exterminate the Indians, but merely to make it so uncomfortable for them that they would return to the reservation at Fort Sill".

"The Indians evidently fled northward toward the Palo Duro Canon and they were followed the next day. At dark, Col. Mackenzie turned back to camp in order to rest for the attack the next day. The next morning, sep. 26th, 1874, at 4 O'Clock, Gen Mackenzie was on the trail of the Indians near the Palo Duro Canon, and began to make descent in single file, each man leading a horse."

Second Lieut. Charles A. P. Hatfield after giving the route about as described above, says, "late in the afternoon of the 24th of September we went into Camp at the head of a small draw, which led shortly into a rough broken Canon, which ran down into the lower Tule Canon. This camp was five miles east of the horse bones at the crossing of the upper Tule Canon."

"The Mexican, Johnson, had been sent out along to find the Indian Camp. He had discovered the camp in the Palo Duro Canon, 30 miles northwest of us, and had returned and made his report only 30 minutes before the full force of the Indians made a furious assualt on our camp at ten O'Clock that night. We knew in the afternoon that the Indians were near, and expecting an attack, had made every

Preperation to give them a warm rec ption. The horses, on full lariat, were sidelined and in addition hobbled, to prevent stampede; the entire command lying on its blankets in skirmish line, on the outside of the horses."

From the foregoing it may be observed that the camp made on the evening of the 24th of September was on Rock Creek. There was water there for camping purposes and it is about five miles from the head of the Tule Canon.

Quoting Hatfield again, "About midnight the wagon train, with the ramainder of the command come up, and went into camp ab ut a mile from us."

"The Indians, following their usual custom, at first attempted to charge through camp, to stampede the horses, but while the charge was made with great determination, it was met with such effective fire that they had to desist from this mode of attack and establish themselves in the breaks about three hundred yards from camp, from where they fired until daylight...strange to say, with thousands of shots fired into camp at close range, there were no casualties among our men...it was a very moonlight night, a full moon, and being struck by this I tested the light by bringing out from my saddle pocket a sheet of an Old New York Hearld which I found I could readily read."

"When daylight came with the Indians still in position, in the broken ground just below the camp, Mackenzie came over and ordered Captain P. M. Boehm with Troop E, of which I was second Lieut.,

to saddle up and charge the Indians...after the swarm of Indians had debouched from the various ravines and gullies and started in a perfect skirmish line, nearly a mile in length, across the level plains, with Troop E. in column of fours in pursuit and only two hundred fifty yards to the rear - a picture of the wonderful spectacle was formed in my mind which more than forty years had failed to efface. The sun raised in our rear, seemed to light up the entire line of hostilities, in their full dress of gaudy paint and feathers, as they turned in their saddles to fire at us, scurring across the prairie in rapid flight."

"I recollect well, saying to myself; now look and take it all in, for with the rapid advance of civilization and settlement on the frontier, the like of this I will never see again." And my prophecy has come very near being true."

Following the foregoing, Lieut. Hatfield describes how they left this trail and took another broad Indian trail southwest. The Indians from the Tule returning to the Tule thinking they had evaded the army. Quoting Hatfield further:

"As soon as it was dark everything changed. We left the trail and under the guidance of Johnson marched at a good gait directly northwest, at right angles to the trail, for the Palo Duro Canon. About 4 O'Clock next morning, the 26th, we came again on the broad trail of the Indians scarcely an hour old. The Indians supposing they had eluded us had returned to their camp....Knowing pretty soon that we were quite near the Palo Duro, we came to a halt to await the dawn. At the first crack of day we mounted and moved

on. Presently we saw directly on our left the dark winding course of the Canon (Cito) Blanco while in front of us, like a dark blotch on the priarie was the Palo Duro. We very soon arrived at the head of a well worn trail leading down into the gleamy looking Palo Duro, and dismounting, on account of its steepness, we went running down the trail leading our horses. It happened the Troop -. was in the lead which enabled me to observe everything."

The fight is described by Lieut. Hatfield; how the Indians were routed in such haste that the squaws could not gather their supplies which they had garnered for the winter, etc. The Indians being without supplies were ready to go to the reservations. The squaws escaped capture only and four of their men had been killed.

I find a clipping im my files by Jonothan H. Hoskinson. He quotes Sgt. Charlton as follows: "The troops had been ordered to the region of the Tule Canon to quell the disturbances of the Indians, led by Lone Wolf. A skirmish followed. The Indians were routed. Sergeant was ordered to trail the Indians. Suddenly and unexpectedly we came in view of the Palo Duro Canon, a colossal crevice which breaks the plains of Northwest Texas for a distance of sixth miles---I dismounted at once---crept on hands and knees to the edge of the canon precipice...I felt overawed at the depths of the canon, which at this point had a sheer drop of 1400 feet...a small stream of water was running through the canon...tepees dotted the canon as far as I could see...returned to camp...the troops were ordered to march on the Indians...and then, we went down

into that inferno of howling redskins. Kiowas, comanches, Arapahoes, and Cheyennes attacked us from every quarter, first by dozens, then by hundreds, as the warriors gathered from the lower part of the camp."

Mr. Burton in his notes states: "That Col. Goodnight, Henry W. Taylor, J. B. Charlton, and J. W. Kent all think it was in the Palo Duro Canon near the line of Randall and Armstrong Counties."

Now, a work about this location. I went to the place and found from the description given by Lieut. Hatfield and Sgt. Charlton, the location of the place without trouble. There was the high point from which I could look over and see down into the Palo Duro Canon, where the canon is seen at length coming from the north and where the Canon Cito Blanco enters from the west. The old trail down which they had to go is there to the west of the high point mentioned. The area appears to be in Armstrong County just east of the line of Randall.

Mr. Beck who has been referred to in the preceeding paragraphs says, "they had a battle with 200 to 300 Indians in the Boehm's Canon in the Palo Duro the 26th of September...we suffered no loss...the Indians lost 13 or 15 of their men." This in the main agrees with Lieut Hatfild and Sgt Charlton as to location.

"About 2000 horses and mules were captured and marched to the Tule the following morning (which would be the 27th) officers, scouts and dismounted men were supplied and the balance of the herd, if my memory serves me right, 1060 in number, were shot, freeing us to continue

the campaign. I was told by an Indian who was present at the fight that they lost 50 or 60 men."

MORE ABOUT THE HORSES

Sgt Charlton says, "They were in the open". This to me means they were on the plains and not in the canons and some might suppose. The number of horses given would have eaten all the grass in the canon in that locality in a short time.

Lieut. Hatfield says, "The rainy season had come on and there was plenty of water; the swales and buffalo wallows being full." In another place, Lieut. Hatfield describes their march behind the Indians as they left the Tule Canon, September 25th, says, "Finally the captain called a halt where we could see the Indians hastening to several herds two miles distant to exchange their favorite war ponies for others of everyday use. We had killed one Indian in his flight, a handsome fellow in gorgeous head dress. We then returned to camp where we found preparations being made to pursue the Indians."

"Col. Hatfield in his report gives the number as1450 killed." Sgt. Charlton says, "1700 horses were captured." "Henry Strong claims there were 885." "The Galveston News report gives 1406 mules and horse captured, from which 360 were selected to return and 1060 shot."

Putting this together it would seem that these horses and mules were kept in herds at different locations near the trail extending from the Tule Canon to the Palo Duro. I sought patiently to find if there could have been water in the lakes. I was rewarded when I found the Hatfield report.

"The following morning (which would be September 27th) officers, scouts and dismounted men were supplied and the balance of the herd, if my memory serves me right, 1060 in number, were shot freeing us to continue the campaign." Eugene Beck as has been reported in the foregoing.

Quoting Lieut. Hatfield on the horses: "On the following morning Mackenzie disposed of the captured ponies, horses and mules. Johnson (the scout) was allowed to select forty as his prize, and others were given in less proportion to some of the most prominent scouts, and still others were distributed to the troops to replace horses which had succumbed to the hardships of the campaign. This left about fourteen hundred fifty to be disposed of and these were taken out and shot.

These extra horses could have been used to transport the Indians to their reservations. They could have been taken back to Fort Griffin. However, with the horses the Indians could have returned to the plains region. Had the soldiers kept them all they would have been a burden to them and they could not have continued their campaign looking for more Indians.

These Indians were not taken prisoners as one might think, but with their horses and supplies all gone there was nothing left to do but to return to the reservation at Cheyenne and Fort Sill. They were not required to surrender as one may easily gather by reading between the lines.'. This was the case with Gen Miles as might have been observed and is now the case with Mackenzie.

Putting all these horse stories together it seems that

the story, as told in the early 1890s, that there were from 1400 to 1700 head of horses and mules was about as nearly correct as could have been made. This agrees, in the main, with the facts as given by the different army scouts and officers who were participants in the campiagn. The number killed given by two as being 1060 and 1046. For the purpose of remounting the soldiers, 360 head, was given by one, would have been sufficient for that purpose. However, if the scouts were rewarded, as suggested by Lieut Hatfield more would have been required.

Some things stand out as self-evident in these campaigns. First, it was evident that they did not try to kill the Indians. This fact was shown by the way Col. Mackenzie handled the situation at Tule Canon the night of Sep 24th; by the way they followed along within 250 yards of them the morning of the 25th as related by Lieut. Hatfield; then, by the way they handled the situation in the Palo Duro Canon. They even allowed the Indians to return to the Tule Canon the afternoon of the 25th. This made it appear to the Indians that they had evaded the army. This is shown too by the fact that the Indians in the Palo Duro Canon were taken by surprize when the soldiers appeared the morning of the 26th. They did not take time to collect their camp supplies nor their food surplus. It is to be borne in mind that they had been supplied with food at their agencies before they came back into the Panhandle areas. Third, there is not evidence that the Indians were taken captives. The idea seemed to be that if their food supplies were destroyed and their horses taken from them, that the Indians would

return of their own accord to the various agencies and surrender.

Col. Mackenzie, according to his scouts and officers, killed the horse and mules that they might continue their campaign searching for other Indians. No where could I find that the Indians were escorted to their various agencies. Gen. Miles related in his report how that they met Indians going to the agencies to surrender. Col. Mackenzie it seems returned to Fort Griffin.

Later, however, he was stationed at Fort Sill to deal with the Indians as was also Lt. F. D. Baldwin. Quanah Parker liked Baldwin so much that he named a son for him calling the son Baldwin Parker.

The whole affair looks about this way: Sep. 24th, 1874 Col. Mackenzie camps on a Tule tributary; 5 miles from the head of the Canon; 30 miles from the battle site in the palo duro canon. This makes the head of Rock Creek the camp site. The night of the 24th the Indians attempt to stampede their horses. During the night they have some skirmishes with the Indians. The morning of the 25th the Indians head northwestward toward the Palo Duro Canon followed by the army. The army turns southwestward up a broad trail which is evidently up the Tule Creek. The Indians after going quite a distance, and thinking they had evaded the army return to the Tule Canon. The soldiers strike camp but after night-fall follow their scout Johnson to the north and travel until they come near the Palo Duro where they rest until morning. The morning of the 26th by 4 A. M., they are heading into the canon where they route the Indians, destroying their supplies, etc.

The soldiers leave the Indians to go afoot at will. They now turn their attention to gathering the horses. These were not in the canon for several reasons. The Indians would have more sense then to turn this number of horses into the canon at this time of year. I have shown already how that the horse were out on the plains and that they were gathered by the soldiers the afternoon of the 26th and marched in front of the army wagons to the head of the tule, where they were killed the morning of the 27th, or at least that day.

Why take these horse and mules to the Tule to kill them? This seems to me a timely question.

The only answer that could be devised, to my mind, was that they wanted to do this near this Indian camp, that the Indians might see their utter hopelessness if they remained in this part of the country.

The Indians in both canons had horses left them. They had fled with some no doubt in the Palo Duro. They had been seen to change their good war ponies for 'plugs' on the prairies the 25th which they had brought back to the Tule Canon. This would be a means for them to escape to their agencies.

How do you think they left and what route did they go? Well, I say they went to the mouth of the Tule over the trail that Gen. Miles, Nelson A. followed and down the Red River as Gen. Miles did to Fort Sill. So ends the Indian Campaigns that touched Briscoe County. All references are authentic.

The work done on the preceding "Indian Camps and Trails" and "The Campaigns Against the Indians" was done in the winter of 1946 and 1947. During 1948, I read a History of Floyd County by Claude V. Hall. This was printed by the Panhandle Plains Historical Society. He agrees with my conclusions in the Mackenzie's last campaign against the Indians, September, 1874. In writing of this, he mentioned that the Indians returned to the Palo Duro thinking they had evaded the army, but instead of returning to the Palo Duro, they returned to the Tule Canon.

Mr. Hall's book was very commendable from the standpoint of historical facts concerning this area; however, his location of Tongue River was not exactly as I understand it. He seemed to bear out the idea that this Las Lenguas and Quitaque were Tongue River, whereas Tongue River was the south Pease instead of the north pease.

While on a prospecting tour July 1891, we camped on the high grounds north of Tongue River which was some 12 miles Southeast of the Matador Ranch headquarters. Near the site of our camp were evidence of a severe storm, the shinnery was swept clean for a width of about 50 feet. One could see where the storm had topped several different hills with the same effect. In may of 1949 some woman referring to the storms told about a storm that Motley County had near Matador May 18, 1891.

THE LEGEND OF THE MACKENZIE CROSSING ON THE TULE

Practically all the early settlers of the area around the head of the Tule Canon heard of the Mackenzie Battle Ground at the head of the Tule Canon. However, any one relating the circumstances usually stated that there was no battle there and that no one was killed on either side.

A Mr. Morgan (I believe) lived at the site of this surrender of the Indians to Mackenzie in 1895. Mr. Morgan seemed interested in the history surrounding the surrender and he seemed to speak with some degree of authority. He stated the surrender was in 1872 which was proven erroneous later.

It was at this site that the first re-union of the ex-Confederate Soldiers was held in Sept. 1895. More about that later.

The story as related ran about as follows: Col Mackenzie coming up the trail from the east came upon two Mexicans who told him that the Indians had many horses grazing on either side of the Tule Creek above the canon and just how the Indians were situated in the canon. The Indians were supposed to have a few men out watching after the horses and mules which the legend related were about 1400.

Some soldiers were sent to cut the herders off from the camp, capture them and bring the horses to the head of the canon where they were placed in a stockade made by the army's wagons and shot. Many bones and hoofs both of horses and mules, were there when first the writer saw the place April 1892.

After the horses and mules were killed the Indians came out and gave up without delay. This legend probably had its

origin in the apprehension of TAFOYA as related by J. Evetts Haley as already described. Since Haley was, evidently, quoting Charles Goodnight, he was probably responsible for the beginning of the story as told to early settlers.

AN INTERVIEW WITH SOME INDIANS WHO WERE THERE

The Tri-State Fair at Amarillo, Texas September 1924 had a small group of Indians as attraction for the fair.

Among the group were three Indians who were present at the head of the Tule Canon when Mackenzie killed the horses and the mules. Two man and one woman. The men were ages 16 and 10 years while the woman was 12 when they were there.

When I learned of this I immediately went to their camp at the Fair Grounds. From the time I first heard of this place, and especially when the Ex-Confederate Reunion was held there in 1895, I had been keenly interested in the campaign against the Indians. These Indians talked freely of the event and seemed anxious that we understand that there was no battle there and that no one was killed. These Indians had been to Tulia, Texas and were taken out there by some kind and generous citizens of Tulia. They made it very plain, however, that this was not the site of the battle. They made it very plain that they had not seen the battle ground. They tried to explain that it was deep, deep, and would raise their hands and arms with the backs of their hands up and the fingers pointing downward, and by motions of the hands and arms in that position would indicate by raising and lowering of them that it was deep.

I have heard men say, and have read some accounts of where people have said, it was lower down in the Tule. Such a statement is erroneous as you may see when viewed from the accounts given by the scouts and soldiers who were with Col. Mackenzie.

When asked the date of the killing of the horses and their defeat, the two men spoke almost in unison that it was 50 years ago today. The date this interview was had with the Indians was September 27, 1924, which corresponds with the exact date of the defeat and killing of the horses and mules, which we had learned years ago was September 27, 1924.

THE COMING OF THE CATTLEMEN

After the Indians were routed and dispersed to the reservation around Fort Sill, Oklahoma, the buffalo hunters came in to clean up the remaining buffalo.

Lula Mae Farley, in an article published in 1935, "Old Memories of the Panhandle", as told by 90 year old buffalo hunter, Uncle Dick Russell, in which he says, "He came into the Panhandle first in 1874". In another place, he says, In May 1876, I pulled back north for the buffalo came early that spring. I went up on Quitaque Creek and stayed three years. I killed 4,000 buffalo on Pease River and took them to Sherman to sell."

J. Evetts Haley's "Charles Goodnight", Cowman and Plainsman", page 313 states,"After leaving the JAs, Leigh Dyer moved the Baker brother's herd into the Quitaque country, directly south, and then left to go into business for himself at the juncti n of the Tierra Blanco and the Palo Duro. There Archie Argo helped build a cedar-log house in the winter of 1877-78, which pre-emption, a year or two later, was relinquished to Gunter and Munson and Summerfield who owned the surrounding country and started the GMS Ranch. This ranch soon became the well-known T Anchor."

Frank Collison says, "That he and Jim C. White were looking for buffalo in the spring of 1878 and that they came upon these cattle on the Lingish and the Quitaque."

M. C. Potter, of Silverton, Texas to C. E. Donnell, Oct 10, 1947 says, " He knew the Baker brothers in San Saba County, Texas before they took their cattle to the Cimarron Country from which place they were brought to the Linguish by Leigh D. Dyer, in 1877." Mr. Potter also knew Mr. Hall who had cattle on Hall's

creek in Motley county. Also, that he knew the men who sold the cattle to the Matador outfit to start that ranch as well as the men who sold the cattle to start the Spur Ranch in Dickens County. That they were all originally from San Saba county."

Quoting Haley again, "Charles GOODNIGHT" on pages 323 and 324, "Besides these purchases (meaning the JA land purchases I am sure) Goodnight had bought the Quitaque, the fine range adjacent to the south, for Mrs. Adair. At the time of the purchase, O. J. Wiren, the manager, and two Wisconsin lumbermen, were partners in the business. They branded the Lazy F, the square topped hat and the dipper".

"Goodnight considered Kellogg and McCoy as straight as a string, but he had little faith in Wiren. After the contract for the purchase was signed in 1880, cattle advanced sharply in price before delivery was made, and it was rumored that Wiren planned to break the contract by squeezing the cattle in so fast that Goodnight could not receive them and declare the deal off. Goodnight took his hands, constructed a big corral with a long chute, and at the beginning of the delivery put his best men at the irons and trained hands in the crowding pens. In the spring of 1881, Col. McCoy was on hand, the irons were hot, and Wiren, handling the Quitaque outfit, had 2,000 cattle bawling at the gates...Delivery was not effected without high feeling on both sides."

What had become of the Bakers? Had they sold land to Wiren or Kellogg and McCoy?

Fred A. Scott, Canyon, Texas to C. E. Donnell said he was there when these cattle were branded; that Bakers branded the Long F and Wiren the hat brand. He thinks they were not partners

but that they ran their cattle together. Fred said, "John E. Farrington came to this ranch as the first boss when the cattle were delivered to Goodnight." John Farrington was 2 years succeeded by Dan W. Jenkins (1 year) and he by Al Barton."In interview May 1947.

"Ranching on the Two Circles Bar " by Josie Baird and published in the Panhandle Plains Historical Review, 1944.

"O. J. Wiren had sold his long F Ranch to Charles Goodnight and purchased the Circles Bar from Jese Hitson. In this manner Wiren acquired the Circles Bar, in 1883, for the sum of $200,000.00."

The land sold to Goodnight for Mrs. Adair was patented to Gunter and Munson and sold by them to Mrs. Adair in 1880 according to the records in the courthouse at Silverton, Texas. From that it may be seen that Baker owned no land; that Wiren, Kellogg and McCoy owned no land on which they were grazing their cattle. This probably accounts for the 'high feeling on both sides' as given above.

Miss Josie Baird said in one place,"That the purchase of the brand conveyed the rights to the land etc." However, in this instance, the reverse was probably true. Goodnight had bought the land and it was sell the cattle or move them to other locations.

Mr. Burton in his "The History of the JA Ranch " says, "In 1882, Col. Goodnight bought the Quitaque Ranch, also known as the F. Ranch, for Mrs. Cornelia Adair.....The next spring we bought the cattle, a herd of some 3,000 head. This ranch was owned by a Tennesseean by the name of Baker." In another place he says under salary and agreement between Adair and Goodnight, "John G. Adair has acquired by purchase.....a large tract of land commonly known as the Quitaque Ranch." Goodnight has in behalf of said Adair had

sole charge and management of the said ranch and cattle thereon since June 20, 1880, at a salary of one thousand dollard per annum from said date to June 20, 1881."

"Colonel Goodnight in 1888 sold half of this ranch to L. R. Moore of Kansas City and the next year sold the remainder of it to Mr. Moore, according to Joe Horn. In 1893 Mr. Moore sold it to Frank T. Howard of New Orleans...Howard through his agent W. M. Massie, Floydada, Texas, has been selling this land out when buyers could be found.

Briscoe County was practically all within the bounds of the JA Ranch and the Quitque Ranch. The exception being the small area on the eastern edge which was in the Shoe Bar.

The JA Ranch acquired all the land included in the Palo Duro and Tule Canons together with the adjacent land in the breaks surrounding these canons. I suppose I should say, that it included the Palo Duro Canon in Armstrong county to the western line. Also that it took in the Tule Creek as far west as three miles west of Tulia. When the Tule Ranch was acquired in 1884 there was more land in Briscoe County. The east fence line was 4 miles west of Silverton and then 4 miles south to the south line. This is counting from Highway 86.

When the Quitaque Ranch was acquired it included the remainder of the southern half of the county. At this point I will give you the general lines of the entire Quitaque Ranch. This Ranch to my mind was the best ranch for its area anywhere in the Panhandle or West Texas for that matter. Had it been possible to maintain that ranch intact to the present day what a ranch it would be. None better.

It might be of interest to know how Goodnight came into possession of the Quitaque Ranch.

What I write here I have heard hundreds of times during my life time but I take pleasure in referring you to Mr. Burton's "A History of the JA Ranch". There you will find all and more too than I will tell you.

Mr. Goodnight had moved his cattle into the Palo Duro Canon in the fall of 1876. There were said to be around 1600 good Durhams in this herd. He later bought some fine blooded Durham bulls. I saw a group of these bulls in the F. Ranch in April 1892 and I never saw as good looking bulls on any range or in any herd.

During 1877 Col. Goodnight and John G. Adair enter into a contract to buy a ranch.

The main points of the contract as given by Mr. Burton were as follows; " Goodnight to receive a salary, brand to be JA, term of contract 5 years-1877 to 1882, division to be made wherein Adair is to get two thirds interest in the land and cattle and 10% interest on the one third interest in the land and cattle that Goodnight was to recieve at the end of the five year period.

"Goodnight bought the first 12,000 acres of the land from Gunter and Munson in 1877: 12,000 acres more the following year, 1878 and about the same in 1879; ~~12,000 more the following year~~ These last two in Briscoe County.

On January 1, 1882 a new contract was started for another five years, which was to all intents and purposes a continuation of the original. However, it seems that this contract was really made May 3rd, 1882." The first contract having been made in June, 1877 was nearing the close and this contract was to begin as of

January 1st, 1882." "This contract was terminated by the following agreement: The partnership to be terminated the first of June, 1887; Adair to have the full value of the JA Ranches and Goodnight to take the Quitaque Ranch with 10,000 pounds indebitedness against it. The cattle to be counted between September 15th and October 15th, 1887."

Reference has been made to where Mr. Goodnight sold one half interest to the Quitaque Ranch in 1888, and the remaining one half interest in 1889, to Mr. L. R. Moore of Kansas City.

According to the deed records in the courthouse at Silverton the lands bought for the main JA Ranch in Briscoe County were purchased in 1878 and 1879 from Gunter and Munson.

In 1880, according to the same record, the 140,000 acres purchased for the Quitaque Ranch were bought.

FENCING THE ADAIR & GOODNIGHT RANCHES

Quoting from Mr. Burton's "History of the JA Ranch" again, "The first wire fence built on the JA Ranch was in 1882. Henry W. Taylor and W. C. Koogle built it. It was what was known as the plains fence. It extended along the northern part of the ranch through Armstrong County and a part of Donley County. It was built more to keep other ranchmen's cattle from drifting in from the north than to keep the JA cattle from drifting out."

"The following year, which would be 1883, the Quitaque Ranch was fenced by a man by the name of Bartlett. Also the Tule Ranch was built at the same time."

I shall give you the fence lines of the Quitaque Ranch as I have known where they were. We will start at the Double Gates

Since most of the southern half of Briscoe County was in the Quitaque Ranch it seems that a general outline of the ranch is in order. Many have forgotten these fence lines and some will dispute their location even now. What is said here is known to be correct.

In Section One, Block B 1, there is a rock monument located with reference to the Quitaque Peak known as Horse Mountain. Roughly it is something like three-fourths of a mile from the northwest corner of said section. This is south of the present highway soon after coming upon the Plains from the east.

We will take the northwest corner of this section one as a starting point to outline the Qutiaque Ranch. All surveys west from here to the west side of Swisher County were taken from this monument and from this corner of section one, block B 1. At this corner are also the corners of sections 2, 9, 10.

There was a fence running straight north to where it reached the rough escarpment of the Plains. This was the east line of the beef pasture in which Silverton was to be located.

One mile north of this corner, or at the northeast corner of section 2, block B 1, another fence started eastward along the north lines of sections 132, 133, 134, 223, 224, 21, 22, and 27 in block G & M and on to a point northwest of the present town of Turkey. This was the north line of the winter pasture.
From this point the east line of the winter pasture went south about one mile from the present town of Turkey to the North side of White Flat in Motley County just across south of Tom Ball Creek. Making the southeast corner of the winter pasture.

We will now return to the corner of section one in Block B 1. At this corner there was another fence running south to the Cottonwood Canon.

From this corner another fence went west but before going farther we must say that at this corner was a gate going into the beef pasture and one into the summer pasture of the breeding herd. These gates were known as the Double Gates. There is a filling station now (1948) just northeast hard by the location of these gates.

This fence running west followed the south lines of sections 9, 14, 23, 39, 54, 67, 80 and 93 in block B 1. ; sections 31, 34, 35, 38, 39 in block A. This line was the south line of the beef pasture.

The west line of the beef pasture followed the west lines of sections 39, 26, 25, 16, 15 and 6 in block A; 197 and 190 where it jumped off into the Tule Canon. The north side of the beef pasture did not need much fencing as it was made up mostly of the escarpments of the Tule and Coon Canons and the escarpments on the east side. All of these are about the steepest escarpments anywhere in the Panhandle.

The south line of the beef pasture as given was the north line of the breeding pasture. At the southwest corner of section 9 referred to above, the north line of the breeding pasture continued westward along the south lines of sections 42, 45, 48, and 53, cornering at the southwest corner of 54.

The west line extended southward from the above mentioned corner along the west line of sections 54, 45, 44, 43, 42, 41, 29, and 28, where it enters Floyd County. This line continued southward toward the present town of Lockney, Texas cornering somewhere north of it. From this corner the fence extended southeastward at right angles to somewhere near the northeast corner of 86 and block T. From this corner it extended eastward along the north line of 86, 85, and 84, and on east into Motley county. The southeast corner of this ranch is located at the north side of White Flat, just as you've left this flat and before crossing Tom Pole creek on the Madador-Turkey Highway.

Note: It was just inside the corner of this ranch that the party mentioned in my article on prospecting camped the night of July 18, 1891. Driving along this road in August, 1947, it was my joy to locate this corner which I had not seen for over 56 years. During the night one of our horses stepped on my foot while asleep in bed; a Comanche yell raised the camp thinking of a rattle snake.

The southeast corner of this ranch was also the southeast corner of the winter range. The east fence of this winter range extends northward from this corner passing the present

site of the town of Turkey, one mile from its west line and corner northwest of it near the breaks of little Red. From this northeast corner the north line of this winter range went westward along the north lines of sections 27, 22, 21, 224, 223, 136, 133, 132, and 2, cornering at the northeast corner of section 2 in block B-1. You will be able to notice that this was one mile north of section no.1, which was the beginning of our location of this ranch; also, the location of the double gates as mentioned above.

We will now return to the northwest corner of what was termed, "The Breeding Pasture", which was at a southeast corner of section 56, block A, and the northwest corner of section 54, block A.

This F, or Quitaque ranch, according to Mr. Burton, was fenced in 1882. In 1883 the Tule division of the JA Ranch was fenced with its headquarters located on the Tule Creek with Fred A. Scott as manager of this division. The South line started at the corner given above and continued westerly along section lines 56, and 57 in Briscoe County, continuing due west - along section lines to a point some three miles northeast of the present town of Kress, Texas. From this point a diagonal line was run northwest to join the section line three miles west of the present town of Tulia, Texas. This was a west line of the Tule Division of the JA Ranch.

During the winter of 1891 and 1892 the fence line between the beef and breeding pastures were removed. Also, the west line of the breeding pasture in the bounds of Briscoe County was removed and a fence from the west line east near the Briscoe-Floyd County

lines was established.

The west line of the Tule Ranch fence which has been mentioned as being three miles west of Tulia was removed and a fence line built along section line five miles east of Tulia, from the south line northward to the Palo Duro Canon.

Mention has been made that most of the northern part of Briscoe County was located in the JA Ranch. Taking the fence lines as given, you will note that the remainder of Briscoe County, including the Tule Canon, was--and still is--a great part of the JA Ranch.

The following in "MY RANCH OF MAVERICK POEMS,"
Written by Gilla Boren McKee

THE LAST ROUND-UP OF TWO JA COWBOYS

This tragic story I shall tell; Old Settlers shall remember,
How lightning killed two JA Boys; In '95's cold November (23, October)
The fog lay dense and heavy; Ghost like in its sheet of grey,
But the cowboys all were earnest, In the Round-Up work that day.
Bob Bishop, a skillful cowman, Then, worked as wagon-boss;
Who could know that on this, They'd suffer such a loss?
That two amongst their number- would enter that Heavenly door;
Would never ride the round-up- or dwell here any more?
The mist grew heavy and heavier: The clouds piled fold upon fold:
But the men were very busy -As they worked in the damp and cold.
Each fall they had a round-up-As the one they had that day,
For the very choicest beef steers -Were soon to be shipped away.
The work had proven successful; The herd was gathered in;
There came a din of lowing---And cheerful shouting men.
The "Cuts" were those of the cattle---That were kept to winter feed,
Bob Christian held those "Cutbacks" With his partner, Warner Reid.
Oh friends, they were so carefree! So cheerful in the damp and chill;
They sang and worked together, Out there on the Burnham Hill.
There came a terrible moment, From the clouds a fiery flash;
The earth seemed rent a sunder---By the thunder's deepening crash.
Bob and Warner, those JA cowboys---Whose hearts were so honest and fair,
With ten cattle and their horses---Were all killed together there.
How pitiful was this sad ending! Two young lives swept away;
No more to ride on the round-up---On the range of the Old JA.

Their honest eyes are sleeping,---The tender hearts are stilled;
And their places in the bunk-house---Have never yet been filled.
On the golden range of Heaven---Where Eternity is a beautiful day,
They ride that range together,--As they rode for the Old JA.

The above is a beautiful poem. Because of Warner Ried being a resident of Briscoe County (he was then not more than 6 miles from his father and Mother's home) and due to the other fact that they were buried in the Silverton Cemetery, I thought it a fitting tribute to these JA Cowboys, to publish this in my book.

The exact date of their death was Oct 23, 1895. I had a part in digging the double grave in the cemetery. At the time of the killing I was riding some 12 or more miles from the scene of the killing. Rain was pouring down. My horse at the light shighed and it seemed to me he would never regain his footing. The crash was the heavist I have ever heard during my life-time. Even though I was so far away, I shall always be sure that this was the crash that killed these boys.

EARLY F, OR QUITAQUE RANCH HANDS

Mention has been made of the Baker brothers, O.J. Wiren, McCoy, and Kellogg and Leigh Dyer. Wiren was in charge of this ranch when it was sold to Goodnight, but we have no other record of any cowboys that might have been there. The Baker brothers could have been there, at least part of the time. McCoy and Kellogg were lumber men in Wisconsin and were only backing O. J. Wiren. One or both of them were there when the cattle were delivered to Goodnight. McCoy was mentioned as being there.

Fred Scott to C. E. Donnell, May 1947 said, "He was there when these cattle were branded and that they had two brands. The Baker brothers branded "F" and Wiren the "Hat Brand." He was sure they were not partners, but he did not know whether the Bakers had sold to these other men before they sold to Goodnight."

This ranch had been located on the southside of the Las Linguas, between it and the Quitaque Creek just after they emerge from their respective canons. In 1887 the ranch house was built on the south side of the two creeks just below their junction, being in the exact corner of Floyd County.

When Goodnight received the cattle in 1881 he was there in person as has been mentioned. He had instructed his boss, John E. Farrington, to take his top hands to do the branding of the cattle. Strong pens had been built for the purpose.

I am thinking at this particular time of this group of cowboys that Farrington took with him. I am sticking out my neck, as it were, to name them, but here goes: John E. Farrington, John Farris, John Mann, Dan Jenkins, Waymon Brown, Walter Dyer, R. T. (Bob) Bishop, .

Charles W. Rhea, Grandbury, Texas, was an F. Ranch hand as well as JA hand from 1882 to 1886. A letter from him telling of his work there will probably be of interest at this particular place. He came to the F Ranch in 1882 and the first work he did was to help survey the south line of the F Ranch. He then went over to the JA and helped build a fence from the mouth of Bitter Creek to the north fence of the JA Ranch and then helped build a fence from Salt Creek to the west line of the JA Ranch. He then helped build a fence around the first Buffalo Park at Goodnight. This fence had 16 wires.

He helped build the rock cook and mess house for the Palo Duro Ranch Headquarters. He then built a large wagon house to shelter the wagons at the ranch.

In the summer of 1884 or 85 he went with a herd of cattle from one of these ranches to Caldwell, Kansas. This herd was under the direction of their trail boss, Judd Campbell.

He names quite a few of the cowboys working there during his stay. He was under John Farrington as manager most of the time. Other names are: John Faris, Billy Swink, Abe Dunlap, Parson Smith; one of the cooks, Sam Murphy, Dick Stepheson, Sam Warrick, Billy Underwood, John Mann, Charles Beverly, George Dozier, Bob McFrogge, Gus Hartman, Billy Aldridge, Joe Dykes, Walter and Sam Dye, two Porter brothers, John Hinsdale; bookeeper, Arnold: another cook, Burdick; a blacksmith; Joe Miller; a mule skinner, Tommie Pierce, Mitch Bell, and his brother, Andy Rhea, who came to the ranch in 1886.

Another job he took was a contract to plow fire guards fifty yards on each side of the fences on each side of the ranches on the plains.

STORY ON BOB BISHOP

T. T. (BOb) Bishop was holding down a line camp near the breaks of Little Red. Joe Horn visiting this camp, found Bob very sick.

After a little cowboy examination and consultation, they decided Bob would have to be operated on. Joe sent to the Palo Duro Ranch for Mr. Goodnight. Joe sent word for him to bring all of his knives and other insturments and come down.

Mr. Goodnight told Joe that they couldn't operate on him but Joe said they had to do it. They cut a hole into Bob's side so that the pus might drain out, and Bob lived to tell the story. He died at Duncan, Arizona, June, 1948.

From the length of the time he had been sick his abdomen was evidently full of pus and probably pooching up, so it could easily be seen what had to be done and where to cut. They probably plunged a knife into the abdomen. Anesthetics and antiseptices were almost unknown in the 1880's. Whiskey was probably used freely on the inside of the patient. After a little clensing with soap and water, probably a small amount of whiskey was used on the outside.

Referring to the story, Hillon Braly says that Joe Horn and Charlie Moore both told him of it. Also, that Buck Russell confirmed the story as being true.

Ranch house.

North of the Quitaque Flats, there is Little Red River. This is really a red country. The river coming out of the Holmes Creek Canon, which had some of the best wild grapes any one ever saw, any place.

After some miles northward across Little Red you come to another expanse of flat land, which was designated, Antelope Flat.

West from these flats and from them westward are lots of grassy breaks and much rough land to the top of the escarpment. North of Antelope Flat you cross Red River. The remainder of the northeast part of the county is more or less rough and broken, but fine grass land. All the breaks north of Quitaque Flats was in the JA Ranch, as well as most of the remainder. The exception being a small portion of the eastern edge which was in the Shoe Bars.

THE COMING OF THE HOMESTEADERS

T. J. Braidfoot moved from Baylor County to Floyd County, Texas in 1886. He stopped under the breaks for the winter; he moved on to section 10, Block B-1 in 1887. This location was five miles north of the present Town of Floydada, Texas.

J. R. McClain and Dr. L. T. Wilson, of Seymour, Texas and others became interested with him in a town site project. They called their town Della Plain. However, in the election for the organization of Floyd County and selection of the county seat, May 28, 1890, Della Plain was defeated.

In August, 1890, Mr. Braidfoot went north into Briscoe County and located on Section 20, Block A. However, he moved his family to this location in the spring of 1891.

T. L. Anderson, coming with T. J. Braidfoot, filed on section 204, Block G & M there in August, 1890. This makes Mr. Anderson probably the first real settler in this part of the country. He at once got lumber from Amarillo and built him a dugout and took up his abode.

He was soon followed by Walter Boehms who located on section 26, Block A. He spent the winter with Mr. Anderson.

Nat G. Waller brought his family and located on section 18, block A, which was just west of Braidfoot; Mrs. Waller being the first woman in the southwest quarter of the county.

Thomas F. Palmer and Amos B. McCracken located in November, 1890 on section 62 & 58 respectively, block B-1.

M. E. Hopson, W. B. Wade, and R. P. Carruth came to the County in November, 1890 and settled on sections 4, 14, and 8, block B-2 respectively.

A. C. Bomar and family with his brother, Virgil, located on section 6, block B-2 in December, 1890.

W. A. Rogers, H. W. Savage, J. B. (Dick) Savage, and J. M. Stalbird, and William P. Brown and family came into the county in December, 1890. Rogers located on section 206, block G & M; H. W. Savage located on section 48, Block M; and Dick Savage located on section 56, Block M; William P. Brown located on section 52, Block ...

The above families represented those that were located in the southwest quarter of the county in 1890.

The information I have says that Russ and Sam Gregory located on the north side of the Tule Canon in the northwest quarter of the county in July 1890, which makes them the first in that vicinity. J. A. Fietzsch located here on section 148, block M-10 in the northwest corner of the county, December 1890.

Mr. John Hickman and John Grady were both on the JA Ranch during the 1880's. They probably settled north of the river in the northeast corner of the county as early as 1890.

Jesse Louis (Lou) Craig was on the east side of the county located in the Shoe Bars in 1890. John L. Bolton, J. M. Honea, W. S. Gregg, and John A. Woods came to the Quitaque Flats country in 1890.

From my present information and recollection, these were all that were within the bounds of Briscoe County by Jan 1, 1891.

The majority of the other early settlers came to the country in 1891. Some in 1892, and the remaining ones were strung out through the 1890's. Among the first in 1891 were the families of J. Randolph Thomas and A. Bruce Loring. They had spent the winter near Della Plain and moved into their dugouts March 1, 1891.

THE DROWNED MAN

Mrs. D. W. Mayfield, nee Dardy Savage, comes to my rescue with the story of the man drowning in the lake on section 26, block A, June 11, 1891.

"After he had sold his section to L. A. Frieze in May, 1891, he had camped on the section south of H. W. Savage that J. L. Crum located on later. The man's name was George W. Harley. He had gone to Mooneyhans to borrow a tent. He had been told of the tent by a cowboy riding the fence line of the F's. She thinks it was Tom B. Michael. Harley went there and borrowed the tent from Mr. McCabe. He started home with the tent and got into the lake and out on the high point in the lake. This same cowboy happened along and heard him hollor.

The cowboy told Harley to stay where he was and he would go get help at H. W. Savage's. Mr. Savage, J. W. Stalbird and Jim Savage went to get the man out but could not find him.

Stalbird and Dardy Savage made a little boat and the lake was dragged and the tent found but no man was found. The fourth day he floated to the top of the water very badly swollen.

Stalbird and George F. Holland had already started the grave and when he was found, the grave was finished and the man wrapped in sheets, procured from the Savages, and was buried."

Mrs. Frank Gerdes, nee Bertha Rogerson, says the man was . . Harley, and that he came there with Frank. Harley located on section 4, Block A and Frank Gerdes located on section 8 in the same block.

Mr. Harley had been helping Frank build his dugout and during the time, Harley sold his claim to L. A. Frieze May, 1891. He moved over to the place that J. L. Crum later located, Section 36, Block A., where he was camped in a wagon.

"One of the little girls was at Plainview and Frank went there for her. Mr. Harley was drowned June 11, 1891. Frank brought the little girl home at night and he followed the north star as a guide."

The heavy rains in June, 1891 had all the lakes filled with water.

Mrs. Gerdes states that according to what Frank had told her that there was another grave already there. She quoted Frank as follows: "Both graves were fenced with a small fence around each one. He told the other men that they would saw one of the corner posts off to distinguish the graves." Mrs. Davis, the mother of Bud Davis, was therefore buried first. We can remember the graves stood there with these fences for a long time. Later the remains were removed to the Silverton Cemetery.

SURVEYING SILVERTON

Monday morning, July 20, 1891 there appeared as if out of a clear sky a Mr. Gaye and James. A. Parks, two surveyors from Clarendon, Texas who were there for the purpose of surveying the town into blocks, lots and streets. John M. Sheen and George F. Holland were the chain carriers and T. L. Anderson drove the stobs at the corners of each block.

This surveying stood as they surveyed it. However, different men surveying seemed to disagree on some of the section lines afterwards.

The basis for this surveying was from the monument already mentioned as being on survey section 1, Block B. -1. This monument had been established with reference to House Mountain of Quitaque Peaks. This disagreement could have been due angle taken from the mountain or to fault of the chain carrying.

We helped to survey from this monument west along the [illegible].

Mr. [illegible]. I. Hanna, using a hankerchief on one of the spokes of a two-wheel cart, missed the southeast corner of section 6, block A. four feet as compared to surveying with the chain. His distance was perfect but he made his corner four feet too far east .

PROSPECTING IN BRISCOE AND OTHER COUNTIES

Mr. Robert I. Hanna had gone from Seymour, Texas to Briscoe County, some time during the winter of 1890-1891. He and M. J. Fisher built the first house, in the future Silverton, to be used for a store as will be described elsewhere.

Mr. Hanna was back at Seymour during July, 1891 to wind up his business and take his team with him to Briscoe County. He had a two-wheel cart and was leading two extra horses.

Mr. Hanna had endeared himself to our family in many ways. He had come to Texas from the state of Missouri and so had we; he was a real man in every sense of the word. The writer was employed by Hanna and Keenan to deliver groceries during the summer and early fall of 1890 while just a kid. Many loads of groceries did I haul to Aunt Mary Jane Frieze's.

Through Hanna's influence my father decided to go with him to see the country. A Mr. Hardy and two Click brothers, one of whom was named Anderson, who lived in the Cache Creek Community decided to go along. We started Monday morning, July 13, 1891.

Sunday afternoon before we were to start, A. C. Scott came out to see if he could come to Floyd County with us. We agreed he could do so. He had delivered some steers which Lem Cheshire, an officer from the Cattle Raiser's Association had picked up in Floyd County.

Monday morning when we were leaving Seymour a Mr. Berry asked to go along with us. He was taken on for the trip. Mr. Berry was making his way to Hale City, Halle County, Texas to see a Mr. A. N. Jones, who had located this place. I never could hear of him until recently. Mr. Berry was a surveyor, and showed us a hill southeast

of Guthrie on which he located a mound of stones for a block corner during the year of 1878 while helping to survey that country.

Judge C. F. Kerr, who was an early 1890 school teacher in Hale County told me that he knew Mr. Berry well and that he taught school some and was a surveyor. He did not know how long he lived in Hale County nor where he moved from here.

Our wagons were loaded with sheaf oats which we were to carry along for feed for our horses. It must be understood that there were no feed stores in these parts. We had a roll of bedding and a chuck box with a jar of sour dough.

Mr. Berry had no luggage except his hand grip. A. C. Scott had a roll of bedding and a saddle.

My father, A. P. Donnell and myself, Charles, a boy, rabbit and quail killer and general roustabout for the bunch, constituted the group as we left Seymour.

The first night out we camped at a gyp spring by a two-room rock house 5 miles west of Benjamin where the Weatherly family had lived. We knew Mrs. Weatherley as she was a sister of a Mrs. Hoggard that was our neighbor when we first came to Texas, 1889. Two of the sons, Bob and Harry worked on the JA Ranch later.

The next morning we go northwest over some nice country until we strike the breaks of Cedar Mountain. We go over this Little mountain. This country was generally spoken of as 'Little Arizona.'

The second night is spent on a flat southeast of Guthrie. We take our horses over on the Wichita River and water at the then headquarters of the 8 Ranch -later the 6666.

Soon after starting the next morning-the 15th- Mr. Berry calls our attention to a hill north from the road where he had helped to establish a rock monument in 1878 while helping survey the country. We pass Gutherie, a little burg of some 3 or 4 new looking homes. On northwest we go on. In a few miles we drive through a gate into the Pitchfork. Scott, sees a plover, takes my rabbit gun, an old army musket, and shoots. The gunkicked him on the cheek. He did not want to shoot it any more. We forgot to look for the plover.

We drive on and camp on the north bank of Tongue River. During the late afternoon we had passed the ROS Ranch in which the Carters of Seymour were interested. Cap Carter and his father and other Carters had ranched there. Two of Cap's boys, Emory and Henry, had tried to get me to go to the ranch with them during the school vacation of the summer of 1891. Our camp on Tongue River was in the scab 8 Ranch.

Thursday just after noon we came to the Matador Ranch

headquarters. This was indeed a nice place even then. Nice homes, our buildings including a shop and a round dirt tank which was built around some springs. After inspecting these headquarters we drove on to the little town of Matador which was just getting started. Here R. C. Scott found some Floydada friends and bade us goodbye.

We drove out to White Flats-not a store or anything to tie to-but just white flats. At the north end of the flats we drove into the corner of the Quitaque Ranch pasture. Here we camped for the night. Being in the corner we were not so concerned about staking and habbling our horses. During the night Old Ponto stepped on my foot while asleep. Out came a yell and all men were up and at attention. No one was hurt.

While on White Flats we stopped at Johnson's. The old gentlemen and three boys we had known at Seymour were there. They had killed a panther over in the breaks west from them a few days before and had his hide stretched down on the ground. He was a pretty big cat.

We spent all Saturday going from the camp at the corner of the ranch to Cottonwood Springs at the foot of the plains. The country was rough and we cross several streams which were, Tom Ball, N. Pease and the Quitaque at the mouth of Las Linguas, passing the peaks as we came. We were following a well marked trail during our entire trip. Not marked with signs, but plainly seen. We did not know anything of the Sante Fe Expedition sent out in 1841 nor of the Indian trails over which we came but this was the trail 50 years after the Sante Fe Expedition. Easily seen and seemingly well travelled.

Sunday morning we ascended the escarpment which was to bring us out onto the plains. For two or three miles the road was rough but when we came to the caprock it was nearly impassable.

The caprock proper was almost perpendicular for 15 to 20 inches and as rough as a road could possibly be. The men held the wagon wheels while the horses brought themselves up over the rough place.

We were now on what was called the Mackenzie Trail. Here it lead northwest for around $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Through the Double Gate on the northside we entered the beef pasture. Our course was mostly westward but slightly to the northwest as we followed this trail. As far as we could see it was grass except for the water in the lakes which had been placed there by the June rains. Such grass as we saw was rarely seen in July except in rainy seasons.

Looking toward the northwest around two miles, Mr. Hanna observed that Mr. Brooks had arrived. A. P. Donnell got on the seat of the two-wheel cart and they went by to see Mr. Brooks. From that day until Mr. Brook's death they were close friends. The Brooks family had just arrived shortly before and they had a tent and a covered wagon in which to live.

As we drove toward Silverton the dugouts of George M. Klutts, and T. B. Michael were seen to our north. Probably no one was at either place at the time. I think Tom B. Michael was looking after fences and windmills in the JA beef pasture.

The cattle in this pasture were spayed heifers and yearlings and two year old steers. The heifers were probably three years of age.

No better sight could have greeted the eyes of any one prospecting. Such grass; such land; such fat stock; a more inviting country could hardly be imagined. However, outside of Mr. Hanna, our family was the only one of the group to ever come to locate at this place.

We drove up to the little store building in Silverton around noon of July 19, 1891. After we ate a meal, which was prepared over fire outside, we lay down on the grass in the shade of the store building and slept. You are asked to remember that the land was all covered with grass.

Our party consisted of a Mr. Hardy, two Click brothers, R. I. Hanna, who had an interest in the store building and store and who had been to Baylor for his horses, A. P. Donnell and Charles Donnell, the boy of the crowd and a Mr. Berry who joined us to go to Hale City to see a Mr. Jones who was interested in a town project.

This building was the only building on the town section. However, T. J. Braidfoot had moved his family from Bella Plain in Floyd county and had built a shed. They were making adobe to build a small house. Fred Braidfoot was plowing some sod-land. The men all went out to see the soil. They thought it was great. There was a load of lumber on the ground for a house for Dr. Isaac H. Watkins. This house was built just west of the Presbyterian church location.

That was Silverton. The other interests in the store were owned by L. C. and possibly W. D. Fisher. They were there, or at least L. C. Fisher was there on our arrival. We had known R. I. Hanna and L. C. Fisher in Seymour.

During the afternoon some men came in for their mail. They had been to Tulia to help them celebrate the first anniversary of the organization of Swisher County. One of the men was George F. Holland; others I do not remember.

Monday, July 20, 1891, we drove west from the town site. We stopped at L. R. Thomas's store and a post office which he called Celtic. After talking with him for awhile, he told us of a section north from there. We started toward it but about the time we reached the Mackenzie Trail, here came a man riding like going for a doctor to tell us that the land had been claimed. We went back to Silverton.

While driving on the trail toward Silverton we came to the lake on the Waller section no. 18. The trail led through the lake but at the water's edge there was a carcass of a dead cow. The moon being around an hour high and the waves caused by the wind made the object look to be a wolf moving slowly along. Mr. Hardy and Anderson Click went to make the kill. When they reached a good distance for a shot both fired at the same thing. Thud, went the sound of the bullet.

We lost Mr. Berry at Silverton on Monday and never heard of him again. We found some new friends, a Mr. Porterfield and two sons, Eagleton and Richard, from Hill or Ellis County. They too were prospecting for a location and Eagleton located in the south part of Hale County later. Mr. Porterfield's wife was a Donnell and he said he could not claim father on account of his dark complexion. Later in life on a trip to Tennessee looking for family information I found she and father were 2nd cousins.

Tuesday we go north to Coon Canon to look at a section and saw Mr. W. L. Jewett. This was considered undesirable because of most of it being in the canon. We drove for a short way east and stop where the men are building a house for the purpose of running the place as Tarlton in the county seat race.

The men had decided to go to Clarendon and drove a few miles and camped for the night. The rough terrain seen when looking that direction caused them to decide not to go.

Anderson Click had filed on some land on Catfish Creek in Dickens County and it was finally decided to go to Dickens by way of Plainview, Estacado and Dockum's store.

Wednesday morning we drove to Silverton and take our leave of the men there and head southwest; have late dinner at Deadman Lake some few miles southwest of Silverton. This lake had been filled with water during the June rains. There was a trail running from one F windmill to another that passed through the edge of the lake as it would be when dry. In this lake there is a high place which at times is like an island. It was said that a man's team following the trail got into the water and he got out onto the island part which evidently was then in shallow water. It would be easy enough for a man to get so chilled that he could die there, as happened to this man.

We drove about 1½ miles and into the F summer pasture. Our southwest course brought us out of the summer pasture where we camped for the night. By summer pasture I mean breeding pasture.

We had found no rabbits on the plains and here the chance to kill a curlew presented itself. That curlew was some tough chewing, friend'.

Thursday, July 23rd, we reach Plainview. Several hours are spent here but the wagons moved on through the afternoon and late toward Estacado.

Friday morning we arrived at Estacado and view the pretty orchards and homesteads of the Quakers. Our journey brings us to Emma which had been elected to be the county seat of Crosby. There was one flat house and a windmill that the hail could beat all

to pieces when folded up as it was. No water on account of a still day and no water storage. We turned the mill and watered the teams and filled the kegs. We camp by the side of a little draw. We leave early Saturday morning going by the Hank Smith rock house.

No one knew anything of the importance of the place as one of the first in the country. We drive east and go out of the canon 3 or 4 miles away. We are in the H - L Ranch. After getting out of the canon our course is to the southeast. We go into the 2 Buckles and pass Dockum's store where we buy sugar to be prepared to cook some plums when we got down on the sandy creeks.

We wind our way along the side of a canon to our west and finally reach Catfish Creek. Here we are introduced to a Mr. Barrett who becomes very much interested in locating all of the men. Mr. Click stepped off a claim near Anderson Click's filling when he was there before. We also meet a Mr. Adamson who was batching there and who died at McLean under my care some 20 years later.

We spent from Sunday afternoon until Wednesday morning in camp here while looking for land. Mr. Hardy and I killed quail and cooked plums while the others looked around for land. Mr. Click was the only one to locate land.

Wednesday, the 29th, we start toward Seymour. We pass Esquella that had been defeated in a county seat election; the old Spur Ranch headquarters; the town of Dickens which had been successful for the county seat. I saw more blue quail that afternoon then I suppose I have the remainder of my life. Rabbits did not look good when these quail could be killed.

We drove around the mountain north of Dickens and camped on Croton for the night. Dry as a chip. We cooked quail, plums and had sour dough biscuits. One of the best meals I ever ate in my life.

According to Mr. Hardy the moon held back that night and we got rain. Everything was left as we ate, even to the sack of flour, and we had a job cleaning things the next morning.

Drive to Guthorie through the Pitchforks and into the 8s again. The next day to Benjamin and Saturday, Aug 1st,1891 we arrive at Seymour, lacking only 40 hours being gone three weeks.

Think of the difference in travel today. Even on dirt roads a model T. Ford could have made it over the same roads in three days with a little pushing through the sandy creeks.

Our thoughts continued to run toward Briscoe County until we made ready to move there.

During the entire trip everywhere the lakes were dry and there were evidences of dry weather in the grass as well.

A FAMILY MOVES TO BRISCOE FROM DOWN STATE

The writer was not with any other family save his own and since most people moved the same way I will take the liberty to use our family. The A. P. Donnell family.

Father and I had prospected the Plains in July and while we found no land on which to locate we returned to Baylor County with our minds made up to move to Briscoe.

Our wheat had been harvested and sold before we made the prospecting tour except one granary. We had a good corn crop and sold part of the corn to John Albright. We helped John gather the corn and then cribbed the remainder.

On September 9th, 1891, we made our start. We had a wagon loaded and a hack pretty well loaded. We had one extra horse, Ponto, and two yearling calfs; four cows and four calves.

The first day we reached the Wiggins place west of Seymour and camped for our first noon meal. I had a cow and two yearlings that were within 400 yards of our camp which I insisted on taking with us but father prevailed against the idea as we expected to come back next spring for them and others. We went back alright but the quarantine kept us from bringing the cattle.

Our direction was West to Benjamin and we camped at Glover's on the road and bought some peaches. The next day we went through Benjamin and west and northwest camping southwest a short way from the rise toward Cedar mountain or as some called that country 'Little Arizona'. The next morning being Sunday we decided to go over this mountain which we did and camped at a Gyp Spring in a small ravine just as we entered the 8 Ranch which is now the 6666. This hill or mountain was some road. No wonder the 'Santa Fe Pioneers called this a rough country.

I might add in passing that our traveling was no doubt over the self same trail all the way to Las Linguas.

Some time in the early afternoon while we camped at the Gyp Spring an 8 fence rider stopped. He and father had worked togather in Seymour during the winter and summer of 1890 and he advised us to move on westward about 3 or 4 miles where we could find fresh water in some small prairie holes. We hitched up our teams and started. I suppose we had gone one half mile when the morticed wooden piece in the fifth wheel of the hack broke at one end. There were some tough hackberry trees growing around some holes of the most stinking water that I ever smelled. I cut one of the trees. We sawed a piece the proper length and went to work with a saw, a pocket knife, and a brace and bit. The tough hackberry was hard to work but that piece of wood lasted for years. We finally fixed things together and drove on to the water holes. A nice place to camp with both water and grass for the stock.

We drove northwest toward Guthrie which was a very young and small town on the Wichita River in the 8 Ranch. We camped for the night at another stinking hole of water just around the hill northwest of Guthrie.

The next morning, Tuesday, we drove a short ways and went through the Pitchfork gate where R. C. Scott had killed the Plover with my old gun in July. We traveled northwesterly during the day and camped in a mesquite grove with lots of beans. Old Ponto loved mesquite beans better than he did corn and he fattened every day. That night we had nice fresh water and the next morning coffee. Bertha was 7 years of age and when asked if she wanted some coffee she replied that she did as she didn't have her coffee last night.

We continued toward Matador Wednesday and camped with about the same experiences. We passed one settler's small shack and were again pretty close to the ROS Ranch house. When we passed by the Matador Headquarters, of course, we had to see that again and show the rest of the family the place.

Friday we passed through Matador but thinking of the road and the climb up the caprock in Briscoe we decided to turn West and we camped on the Middle Pease River flat 8 miles west or somewhere in that vicinity.

Saturday night we landed at Goose Tank in the Matadors. Sunday morning we drove to Della Plain. There was a store and we bought a box of axle grease. All of us had sore lips. Lem decided that axle grease might do sore lips good. He used it freely and he surely told the world about it hurting. I do not remember if it was a cure but I think it helped.

Speaking of Della Plain recalls to mind that this was the defeated site for county seat in the Floyd County election in May 1890. T. J. Braidfoot had come out here from Seymour as had J. S. McClain. J. R. McClain of Seymour whom we had known, and one of the original owners of the town of Seymour, was probably the man behind the guns. Braidfoot had gone to Briscoe County to try again for another county seat.

We headed north from Della Plain and in about 1½ miles drove through the gate on the south fence of the F Ranch pasture. The day was fine and we felt ourselves nearing our goal and were elated over that fact. However, we had an enjoyable trip considering the roads and watering facilities. As we entered the F Pasture there was a house a short ways east of the road that was the John Ewing home. We afterwards knew Henry and Raymond and Bessie who married George M. Klutts.

Along the middle of the afternoon near where we crossed the Quitaque draw two boys passed us on horseback. I noticed one of the horses was branded PM. Afterwards I saw this horse in Silverton and found it belonged to Manton McCracken. These two boys were Lon and Manton McCracken. Lon had filed on a section of land near the Linguish draw in Briscoe County. The Amos McCracken family were living in or near Della Plain. They moved into Briscoe in 1890. About dark we stopped near the Briscoe and Floyd County lines. Since we were so near the line we decided to say that we reached Briscoe the 20th of September. This was my father's 41st birthday and we thought the dates should work together. The next morning we drove to Silverton and camped on the west side of the lake. The following day, the 22nd of September, 1891 we drove out to R. I. Hanna's dugout on section No. 6 and that has been the home ever since as far as we are all concerned. My sister Ora lives there now and to me it was our home and I suppose will be as long as any of us live regardless of ownership.

Our experiences moving were similar to others I know and we were glad to know the trip was ended. We all felt that we had done a good thing. Future events have proven that we had.

THE SELECTION OF A COUNTY SEAT

When a county was to vote on organization there was, naturally to be expected, a selection of a site for a county seat at the same time.

When Briscoe County was to vote for an organization there were three places offered for county seats; Silverton on section 20, block A; Linguish on section 79, block B 1 (some say at the final vote that section 70 in block B 1 was to be the location) and Tarlton on section 163 in block B 2.

Tarlton was nearer the center of the county but was at the head of Coon Canon against the breaks. Linguish (Las Linguas) was run by the Quitaque Ranch people.

The plan for the selection of Silverton was air-tight. An organization was perfected whereby each man going into it should become a stock-holder in the town. It is a matter of record that the organization was duly constituted and H. W. Savage was elected chairman while the directors were, T. L. Anderson, W. S. Gregg, R. I. Hanna, S. P. Huss and W. L. Malone. Mr. Anderson was made secretary of the organization.

There was another committee of appraisal. I could not find any record of it but remember that H. E. Conklin and Z. G. Fogerson were two of the committeemen.

Mr. T. J. Braidfoot had filed on the section 20 in block A during August possibly in 1890 and moved his family there in the Spring of 1891.

Mr. Braidfoot had been in a county seat election in Floyd County when he and J. R. McClain of Seymour ran Della Plain as a candidate for the County Seat. Thus was defeated by Floydada, May 28, 1890.

Braidfoot was to have 55 acres in the northwest corner of the section and the keystone block northwest of the square. The remaining part of the section was to be divided among the stock-holders.

To qualify a school section for a county seat there had to be as many as twenty houses on the land and money to pay the section out to obtain a patent.

It had been my understanding that each stock-holder was required to pay $9.75 and I found that of record once but found too that the required was only $9.25 instead.

When the time came for a patent T. J. Braidfoot relinquished his rights and the section was patented in the name of J. N. Stalbird who togather with his wife signed the deeds to the lots as assigned to the stock-holders by the committee of appraisal. All deeds that were examined by myself were made in 1893.

The name, "Silverton" was selected by Mrs. T. J. Braidfoot. You will notice that she also had the honor of selecting a neme for the first newspaper published in Silverton.

THE FIRST STORE BUILDING

The first house built on the town section of Silverton was for the purpose of a store building. As I think of this building it seems to me that it could easily be said it was about 25 X 50 feet in size with a room in the southwest for living purposes. This house was erected by L. C. Fisher and R. I. Hanna, both of whom had come there from Seymour, Baylor County, Texas. There is a possibility that W. D. Fisher might have been interested in this business, but I think that he was not. He was a young lawyer and came there from Benjamin during the summer of 1891. The building had been erected around March, 1891.

This little store fulfilled a need for the community that was almost indispensible. A great many different articles were carried in the stock. Sugar, coffee, chewing and smoking tobaccos, some nails and staples and many other little things. The stock of heavier groceries was small. If a man found he was running short of such things he could find such there until he could find time to go to Amarillo for a full supply for himself.

The most important thing in the store was the post office. L. C. Fisher was the first Postmaster. He would get your mail any time you came for it. He would get up at night to get it. He always opened the office after church for people to get their mail or, if you were to go for your mail and did not go to church, he would get up from church and go get the mail or anything else you might need. While he was sometimes rather grouchy, being afflicted,

he was always ready to be accomodating to everyone alike.

Some might wonder why a larger stock was not carried or why pe ple did not patronize the store for more things. The answer is simple enough when viewed as conditions were there at that time. Most people had more time than money. They not only needed supplies but they needed lumber and wire and windmills and things that would help them improve and live while doing it. A man going to the railroad after he had his family established in a dug-out already, would usually bring back some lumber, barbed wire, a windmill, lumber for a tower, and pipeing and sucker rods for the well, 300 to 500 pounds of flour, one hundred pounds of sugar, one hundred pounds of salt, 10 gallons of syrup and many other things. No freight line was in the process of operation, nor could a line of wagons be employed for such purposes. Each man did his own freighting. All wagons were equiped with sheets and bows and could be depended upon in wet weather to keep men out of the wet and cold.

As other stores began to operate some few men became freighters. The merchants and even some of the settlers patronized them. This gradually increased in volume as time went on with other things of importance taking the place of the men at home.

MORE HOUSES ERECTED IN SILVERTON

T. J. Braidfoot finished his adobes and built his house and was occupying it when we came back to Silverton in September. Dr. I. H. Watkins lumber had made a house. J. A. Northcutt, the first blacksmith, was erecting a large adobe house northeast of the square. These represent the residences by September, 1891.

Dr. I. H. Watkins and A. C. Bomar erected the second store building which was to be used for a drug store. W. D. Fisher and the Skeen brothers started office buildings building north from the store and drug store. It was in the unfinished building of Skeen's that the first school was started- Oct. 1891. In W. D. Fisher's law office the election was held voting being done at the back window.

Not long after the county was organized, the county and district clerk, T. L. Anderson, occupied a small round top building for his office. This was occupied during 1892 while the courthouse was being built. I do not know exactly who built this little house but I can remember one thing that happened in front of it. That was the wedding of John T. Wimberly and Mrs. Josie Allen, Sept. 29, 1892.

J. R. Corry had built a house and moved his children in for school. This house was sold in June 22, 1892 to E. L. and C. W. Ayres when they came to the county. Corry then started the hotel which he later sold to the crawfords; Later owned by Woodburn and Merricks; Mammie Haynes.

A. C. Bomar built a house for his family which he sold later to Mrs. M. J. Frieze.

T. J. Braidfoot moved a house from Della Plain to Silverton. Two stories with one of them in the basement. There were four rooms in all. This was sold to W. M. Campbell.

During November, 1891, several men took wagons and went to Amarillo for lumber for a school house. This county was not organized, and through what means this lumber was secured, I do not know. The house was built some two blocks south and one block west from the southwest corner of the square. The school was moved from its place of beginning to this house near the first of December.

Some will tell you that this house was built near the Perry Thomas place, which is on the south line of the town section. This is not the truth by any manner of means.

The first Christmas tree was at this school house. It was in this house the Sunday School was moved from the Fisher and Hanna store where it was started. Preaching was had at this school house until about the first of January 1893. However, the second Christmas tree was at the new courthouse.

THE FIRST NEWSPAPER

The first newspaper was edited by Thomas J. Briscoe who brought the press from Della Plain in Floyd County.

For the purpose of promoting the town site of Della Plain in Floyd County, R. E. L. McLain established a newspaper at Della Plain which was called the Della Plain Review. This was discontinued in the summer of 1891. The first publication of this paper was gotten out about October, 1891. Mr. Briscoe and I are depending entirely upon our memories for the correctness of the date of issue.

Mr. Briscoe says that when he had the first issue about ready for press that Mrs. Braidfoot came in. He said to her, "Mrs. Braidfoot, I am giving you the honor of christening this baby, what shall we call it? She promptly replied, "The Silverton Light", and that was that.

This paper was published in a small building with a round top on the west side of the square. When the county was organized in March 1892 this building was used by the County Clerk for an office and the printing press was moved into the building owned by W. D. Fisher.

In April 1892 W. D. Fisher and Rufus Edwards bought the paper while Briscoe continued to work for them until he left the county.

About 1895 probably the paper was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Morgan. The Morgans sold this about 1898 and moved to Canyon, Texas where they established a paper which they called the Stayer. This paper is now the Canyon News under the leadership of Clyde W. Warwick.

I do not know who Morgan sold to, but I do know that T. T. Waggoner, Charlie Watkins, and James M. Hughes had something to do with the publishing of the newspaper in the next few years.

FREIGHTING SUPPLIES

While there was a small store at Silverton people generally went to Amarillo for supplies. That was to be expected for several reasons. No merchant could afford a line of wagons to freight what was needed. Each settler required lUmber and wire to build and fence what fields he had to have.

The distance to Amarillo depended somewhat on the route taken. The shorter distance was to follow the Mackenzie trail, but a load of sufficient amount to supply the demands could not be hauled across either the Tule crossing on the trail nor the Amarillo crossing on the Palo Duro. This route was used by many in goin toward Amarillo. The distance was around 65 to 70 miles.

The best place to cross the Tule Creek was at what is known as the Rock Crossing which was some 15 miles west from Silverton and near one miles below the Tule Ranch Headquarters. From the crossing a route was made toward the Northwest over the trail which joined the Lubbock-Amarillo road some 8 miles north of Tulia. This road was followed through Canyon City etc. The distance on this route was 75 to 80 miles.

The trip usually took around 4 to 7 days, depending on weather and sick horses. Five days were considered an average time to make the trip.

The store did not depend on a regular freighter. However, Mr. Hanna made trips accassionally with his wagon and team. The goods for the store were usually brought by some one who was making the trip for himself. He would load 500 to 1000 pounds for the store.

Such trips as have been mentioned usually demanded a camp on the prairie one night going and one returning. Some times a start from home would be made with an idea of camping in the

Palo Duro Canon provided it was winter time. Some times with a light load men would return to this canon after loading the following day.

During the warmer months some would camp out from Amarillo, go into town and load and return to the grass country for another night camp.

The more common practice was to make it to Amarillo the second night; take time to load and do trading and other acts of business like going to the bank; stay in Amarillo during the next night; and take off early the next morning.

Sick horses were common usually for the following reasons; they were taken off the grass at home where they had not been used to feed of any other kind; they usually had to eat dry sorgum feed in making it to Amarillo; then, oats and corn and hay were bought and fed. Most of these men thought they must feed a gallon at a feeding like when they were on the farm back east or back in some old state. The result was a horse with the colic. Everybody had a remedy, of course, as is usually the case when a horse or man is sick.

The time, April 28th, 1892; two boys with Mr. Hanna start for Amarillo with buffalo bones to bring back supplies. The first night is spent at Mr. George Caylor's some 8 miles northeast of Tulia. The next night on the prairie southeast of Canyon City. The 3rd camp is made for noon meal north of Canyon City. The wind is really pushing things. (It blew day and night to in the 1890s). The dust was in the air and generally considered a bad day. Mr. Hanna asked for the jug of buttermilk which was brought from home.

There was a ball of butter in the 'bottle neck' which he retrieved and placed on a tin place. Salt was added and a good amount of dust was also covering it. Mr Hanna, said," Yea, this dirt thinks it will bluff me off but it will never do it." This saying is still extant in that family.

The boy's wagon with the bones weighed 2420 pounds. When the bones were unloaded the wagon weighed 1210 pounds. That was half bones and half wagon.

The time now, Saturday morning; the wagon loaded; a cool norther is on following the duster of the day before; Mr. Hanna to stay until Monday to attend a Methodist Conference; the boys restless to start; and start they did in the afternoon and drove to the Tierra Blanco Creek where they camp for the night. Monday noon they were at home.

Some observations: Amarillo was a city of some 1500 people. Smith & Walker had a big merchandise store. M. T. Jones Lumber Company and a big wagon yard covering a whole block between 6th and 7th on Polk. Here you could buy your feed. Corn and oats sacked at $1.15 per hundred pounds.

From the camp at noon until Amarillo was reached we had met 125 loaded wagons. These wagons were all loaded practically the same. The regular tongue was removed from the wagon and replaced by a 2 X 4 piece of lumber so as to extend the length of the wagon. The bed was removed and the standards were filled with 1 X 12 lumber. Yes, there was usually four pieces of 4 X 4s to make a tower for the windmill. Behind the wagon box there was some kind of windmill in a crate and a few rolls of barbed wire. The supplies were in the wagon box.

There were a few joints of pipe for the well. This was usually 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch pipeing.

Supplies usually bought were 300 to 500 pounds of flour, 100 pounds of sugar, 50 pounds of corn meal, 10 gallons of syrup, two or three sides of salted bacon, 500 to 1000 pounds of corn, salt in varying amounts from 100 to 1000 pounds and quite a few pounds of Arbuckle coffee and other small items.

So was the plains settled. There were no trees, rocks or lumber and you could not go out to find nails lying around the yards.

It might be added that while we were counting the wagons that were met we were also in a line in which wagons would be seen as far as you could see in front and also coming on from behind.

One trip worth mentioning, Feb. 22, 1895; an eight inch snow on the ground from 5 miles north of Canyon into Amarillo; all the snow melted that day; streets in Amarillo all mud; some 1200 pounds of supplies considered a bit load through the mud the next day; From before sun-up to sun—down, all day, it took to dispatch that 12 miles of road. A Mr. McGuire with Charles Carter's 6 mule team broke the road with 100 bushels of seed oats on two wagons. Some hubs on low-wheeled wagons actually rolled in the mud.

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Another trip with four men and two wagons, the week before Christmas, 1895. A cold norther caused them to walk by the side of their wagons to keep from freezing. They had found a shed half full of sorgum in Swisher County and made their bed on the sorghum. That was almost too warm to be comfortable.

These were some of the experiences through which all had to go. They represent the hardships of settlement.

THE FIRST WHITE CHILD

Everything seems to have its beginning regardless of whether it is a settler or his baby.

Years ago I heard it said, and never disputed, that Briscoe Loring, born in the Rock Creek Community, was the first white child born in the county.

Briscoe Loring was a student in the school at Rock Creek during the spring and summer of 1900, and, also in the spring and summer of 1901. It was said at school that he was the first one born in the county.

When I started to gather information for this little volume it was said that Briscoe Honea was the first one born. Then, I was told that William P. Brown and Roxie Savage Brown had the first one born in the county.

Here is what the families of the three contestants had to say about their births. Briscoe Loring, born Jan. 30, 1891; Benjamin Brown, born, Feb. 5, 1891; Briscoe Honea, born, Feb 20, 1891.

Since there were no records kept at the courthouse as far as known, that is final.

THE FIRST SCHOOL

The first school in Silverton was the first school taught in Briscoe County. You should bear in mind that the county was not organized when this school was taught, so therefore, it must of necessity have been a subscription school.

The school was taught by John M. Skeen and lasted from some time in October until near Christmas, 1891. There was no school house. Mr. Skeen and his brother, Ples Skeen, had started a house on the street near where the Ballard Drug Store (now 1948) is located.

The purpose of the house was for a land office. However, I suppose it was also to help get 20 houses on the section so a patent to it could be obtained.

This house was around 12 X 20 feet in size. There were three openings in each end for doors and windows, but it had neither doors nor windows. There were rafters 4 feet apart with 1 X 6 rough lumber for slats to hold the iron roof which they erected to place on it. However, while school was going on here the house was covered with wagon sheets. Those of us who came in hacks brought quilts or blankets which were placed in the west to keep out the cool wind in the morning and the sun in the afternoon. Seats were made of 1 X 12 boards around the walls.

During November some wagons went to Amarillo for the lumber to build a school house. This house was on a block some 2 or 3 blocks south of the square and a block or so west. Where the money to build this house came from I have never learned. When a more commodious house was built nearly west from the square this first house was sold to G. W. & Q. E. Brown and D. G. Montague.

There was a stove in this house and seats were placed around the stove in a square. Four of them-one for each side.

They were about 10 feet long with planks and Star tobacco boxes as legs. George Northcutt, Frank Chambless and myself, being the three largest boys, were allowed the privilege of making a kind of desk and bench out of scraps left over which we placed between two windows on the south side.

A little incident that might be of passing interest was enacted on this bench by the stove. Retta Cory and Gertrude Braidfoot came over and sat on the bench with me - one on each side- presumably for the purpose of having me help them with some problems in arithmetic. We were having a big time with our backs to the teacher and all the rest of the pupils. Mr. Skeen came over, and with one hand on my shoulder, asked, "Which one of these girls are you claiming"? I said, "Right now, both of them. He smiled and went on about his business with his classes.

CHILDREN ATTENDING THIS SCHOOL WERE:

AKERS	Blanche, Bennie and Nettie
ASKEY	Elbert, Allen and Nettie
BRAIDFOOT	Harry, Guadaloupe, Fred and Gertrude
CHAMBLESS	Frank, Ed and Luther
CORY	Retta and may
DONNELL	Charles, Samuel, Lemuel, Bertha and Leora
FANRHAM	Oakley, Maude and Jessie
MAXWELL	Bruce
MOYNEHAN	Roy, two other boys and a girl
McCABE	Rex and June
NORTHCUTT	George, Naomi and Dixie

Counting the above you may see that there were 32 in this school and not 12 as some have said and written.

We did not have enough boys to play baseball so we played 'scrub' following much the same rules as in baseball. Our baseball was made by placing a large long bullett inside a tap from a bolt; beating the ends of the lead down so as to make it as round as possible. Twine was wrapped tightly around this to the proper size. Mr. Northcutt covered it with some buckskin and we had a good ball. After much use the inside began to cut through and most of the licks were foul balls.

We had a good time playing and going to this school as it was another means of becoming acquainted with our friends and neighbors. Thus, after two months session, ended the first school in Silverton and Briscoe County.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE

The first Christmas tree celebration was held in the school house Christmas Eve, 1891. This was soon after the first school had stopped.

Christmas Eve had been a fine day and every body in the new community had come to see each other and get a little better acquainted with their new neighbors.

While the presents were being distributed a cold norther came in with a fury born of the polar regions. The wind blew and whistled around the corners of the house and it was biting cold in a very few minutes.

Our family lived 4 miles northwest. We were there in our wagon and we braved the storm reaching home almost frozen. Many stayed in the house all night. The more grown-ups that had recently come among us had a party. I read some one writing of this which said the people went to places in town. There were few places and rooms were scarce.

The second Christmas celebration was in the courthouse, Christmas Eve, 1892. The courthouse was just finished or nearly so and the county officers had not yet moved into it. The court room upstairs was jammed with people. Presents had to be handed over their heads. Where these presents came from has always been a mystery. Most of them must have been brought home as the two little stores we had could not have had them in stock. There were boots, shirts, ties, bridles, one saddle and everything I believe matched this one in monetary value.

THE CEMETERY

Some time during October, 1891 the community was shocked to hear of the death of little Tommie Corry. He was some 4 or 5 years of age. She probably had diptheria. This was the first grave in the present cemetery.

There had been two other people buried west of town. A Mrs. Davis, the mother of A. B. (Bud) Davis being the first. The second was that of a man by the name of G. W. Harley that had been drowned in the lake on section 26, block A., the 11th day of June, 1891, following very heavy rains during the first of June that year. See article on the drowned man elsewhere.

The second person to be buried in the present cemetery was a Mr. Turner who lived on Ross Canon. He had come there from Baylor county with the Tubbs brothers and Mr. Beeler. He and Mrs. Turner had a girl living with them, Viola Buffalo, who married W. A. Malcolm. The cemetery was located on part of Malcolm's section.

The writer helped dig the two graves as well as others later. The last graves that we helped dig was the double grave for Warner Reid and Bob Christian, two JA cowboys that were killed by lightning northwest of the Mackenzie Crossing some 2 or 3 miles, October 23, 1895. They were buried Oct. 24, 1895.

Warner Reid was a son of M. H. and Mrs. Reid and a brother of George F., William W., Oscar and Kate Reid, and was not much more than 6 miles from home.

Bob Christian was a brother of Jim and Bill Christian whom we have known so well and favorably since. Bill having married Anna Pietzsch.

SOME SOCIAL NOTES

All girls in the early days were Miss Brown and Miss Susie. Acquaintance making the distinction. Usually all were Miss Bessie or Miss Eva or any other Christian name. No body said "Bessie, Eva or Maude." It was always "Miss".

The boys would gather at some little grocery store and eat all the canned goods in sight usually making them sweet with sugar though it was a can of tomatoes. From such central location notes were sent to girls for dates. No other plan was used to any extent. This continued for several years to be the custom.

We hear of the gay 90s referring to dress. Well, may this be said to be true. Large hats adorned the girls and boys too for that matter. The girls wore their clothes very tight around the waist. Toward the end of the 90s the skirts had a train, if you know what I mean, and had to be carried in one hand and just raised to a nice fold over the left thigh and leg. This had to be practiced to make a nice go of it but it was the way they did it to perfection. Young women (girls were young women in those days) wore top shoes laced beautifully. They would have felt disgraced had any one seen their stockings above the shoe tops. Young men were as polite to a lady as one could find any where in the world. The **very** attitude and dress of the ladies commanded respect if I might say such. They got that deserved respect to as was their right from every man even though he seemed to have a rough exterior. Those were the good old days, We look back and call them that, but we could hardly go it again.

A SOCIAL PARTY-PROBABLY THE FIRST

When the building for the drug store was finished in the fall of 1891 some of the bachelors, I suppose decided to have a party at this new building. Seats were arranged around the walls. They were made of 12 inch boards left over from the building of the house.

Silverton could not boast of many belles as yet. Guadaloupe Braidfoot was 15; Gertrude 11; Blanche Akers 14; Naomi Northcutt 12. They represented all the older girls in town.

However, to the boys, and bachelors too, they were "Miss" Guada and "Miss" Blanche and "Miss" Naomi and "Miss" Gertrude.

During the party our eyes fairly stuck out when some grown young women made their appearance. There were the Misses Emma and Kettie Skeen, the Misses Anice, Emma and Willie Waller, and the Misses Zudie and Senia Crawford. This was the first appearance of these young ladies I feel sure. I suppose most of us knew nothing of their being there.

This is as far as I know the first social function ever held in Silverton.

June 1947, Mudie and Senia related to me at Tulia at the home of Dr. J. Ed. Crawfore that they arrived Nov. 2, 1891 and that this was soon after their arrival. They told me also of a similar party after the first Christmas Tree when the cold norther blew in which held many at the school house. People were really coming in with their families. Many such events were held thereafter and through the years until most of us were grown and married and many had moved to other fields of action and service.

When you think back over the years of your life the friends you make under such circumstances are your most cherished ones. No other reunion of friends of mine would nor could be as

enjoyable as a reunion of the young people that I knew and associated with from 1891 to 1903. I wonder many times if others feel the same way about it.

When you look at the marriages of these young people as I will try to show in other places, I think you will agree, I am right in making such a statement. Honestly I sincerely believe that some of the happiest marriages were made by these young people and probably the social functions had much to do with them.

Many times I am made to wonder if there actually was that good followship and friendship among these that other marriages could have been made that might have been just as well as they were. One never knows what might have been but you are entitled to an openion as to what could have been had others been selected. After all our selections were made with each and all trying to honestly suit themselves in their chosing of a life partner.

THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first Sunday School was started during October probably about the time the school of Mr. Skeen's started. Those that came met in the store of R. I. Hanna and I. C. and W. D. Fisher. As soon as the school house was finished it was the meeting place.

At the store building what few people came sat on the counters and a plank placed on nail kegs. Some brought chairs in the wagons along from home. Seats were a problem at the school house too.

The first courthouse was finished around Christmas 1892 and the Sunday School and preaching was there. However, the officers did not move to the new building until after January 1, 1893.

W. B. Ford, a Methodist preacher, was the first man to preach there in the fall of 1891. He lived either in Hale or Floyd County; Hale I believe.

The first Sunday School was a movement started by A. P. Donnell and R. I. Hanna. As a boy I remember them discussing it. Their ideas were that they should show their colors as men who believed in religion and what goes with it. A. P. Donnell was elected the first superintendent. This school was a strictly community affair and so continued until around 1899 or 1900.

Men who preached in the courthouse were J. W. Beck, Will S. Riddell, who organized the First Baptist Church, Ed. R. Wallace, the first resident pastor for the Methodists. I. B. Kimbrough and Winn from Plainview; J. N. Stalbird and Charles Smith from Floyd County came occassionally.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY

All the preceding things happened before the county was organized. However, preparations for organization were going forward at a studied rate.

Briscoe County was named from a San Jacinto battle hero, Andrew Briscoe. It is of passing interest to state here that one of the early settlers was Thomas J. Briscoe. I heard it said Andrew Briscoe was his grand father. Also that Andrew was his grandfather's brother. I do not know which is true. I hope to find out.

BRISCOE COUNTY CREATED -1876

Briscoe County was in what was known as the Bexar Land District until, by the Act of the Texas Legislature, August 21, 1876, some 50 odd counties were named and created in West Texas and the Panhandle. They constituted what was called the Jack Land District and the Young Land District, Briscoe being in the Jack Land District.

Wheeler County was organized in 1879 and Briscoe was thrown in the Wheeler County District. These counties were made a part of the Tenth Judicial District, and when Wheeler County was organized, they were attached to it for judicial purposes and for the purposes of organization of these counties later.

Emanuel Dubbs was elected the first county judge of Wheeler County. I read some where that Charles Goodnight spoke very highly of his services in bringing order, Etc. The writer knew Judge Dubbs during the period of 1905 to 1915, and one of his sons, Clarence Dubbs was one of my friends and patrons for a period of 20 years.

It is my understanding that all the Panhandle counties were attached to Wheeler at that time with probably a few more of the counties. The Panhandle has 26 counties and Briscoe is on the south side being in the most southerly tier of counties.

Settlement was begun at old Clarendon in 1879 and Donley County was organized March 22, 1882. After Donley was organized Briscoe was attached to it for Judicial purposes and for organization of the county later.

Briscoe was organized March 15, 1892 making it under the Juris Prudence of Donley County for a period of ten years.

THE ORGANIZATION

The election for organization, the selection of the county seat and the election of the first officers, was held, March 15, 1892.

Silverton was easily the winner as practically all the men located on the plains part of the county, and many of the men below the caprock, went into the town organization.

THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS WERE ELECTED:

County Judge, James N. Stalbird

County and District Clerk, Thomas L. Anderson

County Sheriff, Miner Crawford

County Attorney, W. Darrie Fisher

County Tax-assessor, Oscar T. Reeves

County Treasurer, Robert I. Hanna

County Surveyor, Nat G. Waller

County Commissioners: H. W. Savage, J. A. Northcutt, W. L. Malone and W. S. Gregg

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The election in November following the same county officers were elected except commissioners S. P. Huss, John Grady, V. Wilkinson and W. L. Maline were elected.

In the November election of 1894: J. N. Stalbird, Judge; Anderson, Clerk; T. B. Michael, Sheriff; F. J. Farnham, Treasurer; H. P. Jones, Surveyor; Huss, Grady, Malone and J. M. Carr were elected.

In the election of 1896 D. W. Hullum, Judge; Fred Biffle, Atty; H. C. Seaman, Assessor; T. B. Michael, Sheriff; T. L. Anderson, Clerk; H. P. Jones, surveyor; Commissioners, R. F. Stevenson, R. F. Cope, J. M. Carr and J. A. Woods.

MORE OFFICERS

OFFICERS ELECTED 1898:

Judge, J. N. Stalbird; County and District Clerk, J. L. Daniel; Treasurer, James W. Coward; Assessor, H. C. Seaman; Surveyor, Nat G. Waller; Sheriff, T. L. Anderson.

Commissioners; K. E. Bain, M. E. Bell, A. R. Jago and J. M. Anderson

OFFICERS ELECTED 1900

Judge, J. N. Stalbird; Attorney, S. L. Wagley; Clerk, J. L. Daniel; Sheriff, T. L. Anderson; Assessor, Jake H. Mcclendon; Treasurer, J. W. Cowart; Surveyor, Nat G. Waller.

Commissioners: K. E. Bain, M. E. Bell, A. R. Jago, and J. M. Anderson.

No more officers will be given only as they were elected while living in the county and mention will be made under their respective names.

CHARACTER OF THE MEN WHO SETTLED BRISCOE COUNTY

It will be noticed that the family men who settled Briscoe were men from 25 to 50 years of age. Practically all had lived during the period of the civil war. Many of them had been soldiers in that bloody strife.

These men were from Tennessee, Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisana. They had been pioneers or sons of pioneers in these states. They were tried in the hardships of a frontier country.

The man that were old enough to enter the Army had had more school advantages than those that were under age for war services. Those men were deprived of school during the Civil War. However, regardless whether they had school advantages or not, they were men of sturdy character and of deep convictions. Men who stood for something in life and who were willing to suffer the deprivations of a frontier to better themselves.

The author knew most of them personally and there were men that could tell you where they stood on any question. They were willing to back their judgments and practically all were men of good character. Many of deep religious convictions as well as moral courage. It might well be said of them," They were men."

These men were not noted for their outrageous deeds or other froms of notoriety, but were out to build a civilization for their children and their grand children.

What has been said of men may be, and is, applied to the noble women who stood by the side of the men and urged them on to more noble things. Long live their kind and may it be said that their forbears will carry the banner higher if it could be possible.

FARMERS AND CATTLEMEN

As far as is known most people moving into Briscoe County brought a few cows for milk for their families. Some brought 25 head or 50 and some 100 or more.

After the dry years of 1892-93-94 practically every one thought of going into the cattle business more extensively. Briscoe County was mostly in the JA Ranch, (the F or Quitaque Ranch) and a small part on the eastern edge of the county was in the Shoe Bars. Naturally these ranches could not afford to sell their stock to men coming into the county. The men who could spare some dry cows could hardly afford to sell to their neighbors. No one blamed them for taking the position they did in regard to selling.

Briscoe County was above the Quarantine Line and cattle could not be shipped except during winter months of December, January, and February. Quite a few availed themselves of this opportunity and shipped, or bought, cattle that had been shipped from East Texas. These cattle were usually unloaded at Estelline or Clarendon for Briscoe County.

It is generally known that when Col. Goodnight came to the Panhandle in 1876 he brought Durham cattle (Shorthorns to us now) and bred and raised them for several years. He had some of the largest and best looking bulls on the Quitaque Ranch that could be found anywhere. I can remember seeing a group of them on the range in April 1892 and they were in good flesh and nothing but grass to eat. Col. Goodnight had crossed the 'Durhams' with Herefords. The second and third crosses made

cattle from the JAs and the Quitaque Ranch noted for high class breeding.

D. H. (Pat) Sweeney had some of the best cows that he brought from Jack County that were among the 'Nesters' as we called them. They were high grade shorthorns. He raised a roam whiteface bull from a big roan cow mated to a Herford Male that was a good one even though he was a crossbred. Ligo and Hugh Bain had a string of red bulls. George Reid and the Donnells had had some good Shorthorn cows and grade a splendid bunch of the crossbred. Many others could be named.

Speaking of crossbred cattle, in the shorthorns, the blood seems to be the best for crossing on any other breed of cattle as a starter. J. E. Daniel bought a bunch of South Texas heifers from the Burlesons and used a roan bull he purchased from Jacobs. All the calves were roan. This is true, or practically true, of all such breeding. Take just cows and use Shorthorns for your first cross and then turn to your Herefords and you have better cattle than to go Hereford from the start in your grading up.

These early years on the plains were so dry that a man without cattle did not know what to do other than go into the cattle business as much as possible. The size of the herd usually depended on the amount of land one could controll. People talked cattle and raised cattle. Any boy growing up could take a job on almost any ranch for he knew how to rope cattle and how to ride a good cow-hourse. Nothing is more to a boy's liking than to ride a good cuttin' horse after cattle. All the good cuttin'

horses were not on the large ranches either by a long shot. Practically every place had their good horses.

It was not always fun to meet these cattle at Clarendon in the cold winter months. Take for instance the big snow which fell January 28, 1895. R. E. Fletcher in Hopkins County wires a telegram to meet him at Clarendon Feb. 1st. Three men,(A. I. Hanna, Fred Biffle, Charles Donnell) met in the snow and camp in the cedar breaks by Dinner Creek because darkness came on and as there had been no tracks the road could not be followed. Three days on the road which was nearly 50 miles. Rain in the east had prevented the cattle being shipped so the three men wait there a week. When the cattle came they were fed some sorghum fodder after dark. They started the next morning. First camp a few miles out and the next morning shows prospects of a fine day. In two hours a 'blue norther(' hits. This is Feb 8th, 1895 and about the second coldest day since settlers came to the county. Men freeze their feet and hands on such days as was the case with these men. They reach the shack at the Mulberry pens on Mulberry creek and hole up for 24 hours. The storm soon passes and they go on their way with the usual luck of men on such errands.

The above is just a sample of what many did to get a start in the cattle business. After all, men glory in tribulation in what ever line of work they undertake. A good rider tells how hard his horse pitched but how he stayed in the saddle. Men tell of their deeds and glory in how they made it through. Hard knocks make hard men. The country demanded it of them.

SOME EARLY DAY POST OFFICES

Probably the first Post Office was Celtic, which was located in the Rock Creek neighborhood on section 50, block A. This was the location of E. Randolph Thomas and he was the first postmaster.

This post office was later moved to the home of H. W. Savage. Probably Mr. Savage was named postmaster.

This post office was established by Mr. Thomas about April or May, 1891.

The Silverton Post Office was established near the same town as the Celtic, and the first postmaster was Len G. Fisher, who remained as postmaster until 1895 when he resigned and moved to Canadian, Texas.

Z. G. (Bud) _______________ was appointed postmaster in 1895 and served about four years.

The third postmaster was M. E. Hopson.

Elmore, located north of Red River in the northeast corner of the county, was in what we were pleased to call the Grady and Hickman community, or often referred to as down on the river, and was started by Oliver H. Mooney. He sold out to the JA's (I guess), and the post office was discontinued.

Mr. Smith, living in the same neighborhood, took over and changed the name of the post office to Brice. Later Brice was moved across on the east side of Mulberry Creek.

It seems that Brice was moved around to different homes according to the postmaster, but for some years it has been at its present location.

Information concerning these offices was furnished by Miss Emma Bullock; Mrs. Mary (Hickman) Cross; and Donald Grady.

Milo, at the home of Willis L. Malone, on the north side of the Tule Canon, had Miss Maude Malone as its first postmaster. She served until 1898 when she was married to John Love.

This office was on the mail line from Claude to Silverton during part of the 1890s.

After Miss Malone's marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Malone continued this post office for a number of years.

MORE ABOUT EARLY POST OFFICES

Probably the first post office was Celtic and the post master was E. Randolph Thomas on section 50, block A in the Rock Creek Community.

Silverton, 1891, with L. C. Fisher the postmaster.

Elmore north of Red River in what we were pleased to call the Grady and Heckman community, or just down on the river. This was started by Oliver H. Mooney. He sold out to the JAs (I guess) and the post office was discontinued and the people there got their mail at Brice which was north of Mulberry.

Quitaque was supposed to have been started by A. R. Jago. Some say it was started at the Quitaque Ranch in Floyd; others say that Jago first had it near the ranch; others say it was started on the land which is now the town of Quitaque.

Milo was at the home of Willis L. Malone who was postmaster. He had the help of Mrs. Malone I guess.

There was a mail line that ran from Silverton to Curlew in Floyd county and to accommodate the people in the south part of the county, the office of Reeves was started in 1898, the postmaster being J. H. Reeves.

After the Tule Ranch vacated its headquarters on the Tule Creek above the Rock Crossing, they established Beverly Post Office at the headquarters on the plains between the two Canona.

Miss Emma Bullock writing of the Elmore and Brice post offices, says, "Elmore was started by Oliver H. Mooney and was between the Red River and Mulberry on the corner of the Morgan Salmon Estate, or the D. S. (Starr) Jordan land.

After Mooney gave the office up it was changed to Brice but was west of Milberry Creek. Later Brice was across on the east side of the Mulberry and was moved from place to place.

This agrees with Mary (Heckman) Cross and Donald Grady.

THE FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL IN SILVERTON

The term of this school was probably of two or three months duration.

There were several more families with children to send to the public school. The pupils in this school were nearly as we can ascertain were: Akers, Blanche, Bennie, Frank(Bud); Askey, Elbert, Allen, Nettie, Eva, Myrtle, Less; Braidfoot, Harry, Guadaloupe, Fred, Gertrude; Bomar, Charles, James; Brooks, Bud, J. Davis, S. L., Caleb; Brown, Willie, Sadie, Nora, Robert; Buffalo, Viola; Brunson, Ava, Denim, Pearl; Campbell, Victoria; Chambless, Frank, Ed, Luther, May; Davis, Claude; D'Sprin, Edith, Benny; Donnell, Charles, Samuel, Lemuel, Bertha, Leora; Farnham, Oakley, Jessie, Maude; Freeze, Artemus; Maxwell, Bruce; McCabe, Rex, June; Mooneyham, Roy, 2 boys and a girl; Marris, Clark, Wylie, Florence; Northcutt, George, Naomi, Dixie, Lucy; Riddell, Harvey; Watson, Una, Maggie, Annie, Robert.

There were two other girls that went either to this first public school or the second that did not live with their folks. Viola Buffalo was one and she lived with Mr. Turner on Ross Canyon. She later married Malcolm. Cornelia Bryant from Old Estacado probably stayed with Braidfoots and went awhile. Lettie Wells Sweatt came from somewhere and was in school at the first public school or the second. She married Dr. George F. McClendon.

The boys were still playing 'Scrub' but baseballs were as scarce on the Plains as lumber or hen's teeth. We made a ball by pushing a long leaden bullett into a nut off a bolt. Mr. J. A. Northcutt covered it with buckskin after it had been wrapped with string.

were trying to teach in the same house. Prof. Fletcher was deficient in seeing and hearing. J. W. Daniel was employed in the spring of 1894. The main purpose in employing Daniel was that he might handle the discipline of the work in the school room.

Prof. Barnes and Miss Sallie McGehee were employed to teach the school beginning September 1894. They taught two years. By this time school was running probably all winter. The Silverton School up to this time, like other schools of the county, would have three for four months in the fall and then take up again the first of April, when they would again have two or three months. Some of the schools of the county had school during the summer months as well until 1902 or 1903.

J. W. Guyer and Quimby Brown were employed for the year 1896-97. During the summer of 1897, the first school house was sold to ~. W. and Q. E. Brown, and D. G. Montague, and a more commodious house was errected with upstairs. D. C. Lowe and James M. Oakes and Sena Crawford were employed as teachers.

D. C. Lowe was head of the schools until May 1900. Miss Eva Wright taught with Mr. Lowe during some one of two terms while Mr. Lowe was there.

W. F. Johnston was made head of the schools in 1900. He stayed probably till 1904. Some of his teachers were: J. M. Oaks, Gus Gamble, Beulah Stovall, Gertrude Hanon, Alice Strum, and Bertha Donnell.

EARLY SCHOOLS AT ROCK CREEK

The first school at Rock Creek was taught by Rufus Edwards and the time seems to have been 1893 according to Mrs. Randolph Thomas and her daughter, Annie.

Kate (Burleson) Price says,"She attended school there in 1894 or 1895 taught by John M. Skeen. Miss Maude Carter taught during the spring and fall of 1898 and W. A. Sedgwick during 1899."

School taught there by Charles Donnell, 1900 and again in 1901.

Those attending in 1900 and 1901 were:

Boren, Oran, 'Bud', and Vashti; Edens, Mattie and Willie; Hill, Pearl; Forgerson, Walter, Annie and Bertha; Loring, Ernest, Donna and Briscoe; Mayfield, Lizzie and Ethel; McCracken, Millie, Olivia, George, Amos, Ethel and Elbert; Pycatt, Chester, Maude, Alice, Dudley and Robert; Reid, Robert, Roy, Wade, Sidney and Lola; Rogers, Oscar, Robert, Ruby, John, Regina and Hayden; Wagley, Maude.

THE FIRST SCHOOLS IN THE QUITAQUE FLATS

Everyone approached agrees that the first school taught in this area was taught by Mrs. Hooks, the mother of Mrs. John M. Honea.

The school was taught in a dugout near the J. L. Bolton place. It seems that Mrs. Hooks taught three months in the fall of 1892 and three months in the fall of 1893.

The second school was taught by Miss Sallie Savage. Miss Sallie taught in the fall of 1893 and again in the spring of 1894.

The above information comes from Mrs. J. L. Bolton, nee Nora Gibson; Mr. A. L. Lyles; Mrs. Lonnie McCracken, nee Mattie Gibson; four Woods, and Kattie Shaw.

Miss Lizzie Gregg says she attended school in the Karen's house, the present Will Graham homesite, taught by Miss Sallie Savage. This would indicate the site of the second school in the Flats. She also says she attended school taught by Jim Williams and one at the Pole Creek School taught by Tom Gay. This was in the late 1890's or 1900.

Most of the above quoted persons agree that S. T. (Tommy) Cooper taught the third school but do not give the location of the school.

Mrs. Lonwoods also says there was a school near Linguish, taught by Miss Alma Wright. She thinks this was about 1896 or 1897.

This school had the following pupils: Three Gibsons; four Greggs; John Jago; Three Poles; Five Potters; Charlie and Mann Sutton; five Woods; and three Honea children; Mr. John Brummett taught at Pole Creek as did M B. E. Cook. Mrs. Cook is known to have taught there during the spring of 18 After the time of Quitaque established, about 1897, the school was located at that place. Among the early teachers there were the Love sisters: Miss Lilian, who married J. B. (Buck) Russell; Elmina, who married J. Henry Hughes.

THE FIRST REVIVAL MEETING

During July 1892 men with wagons went to the breaks and got cedar boughy mostly the short cedar that is found on the edge of the breaks. Then, with some posts and other longer ones built an arbor on the north side of the school house. This was a dry summer and most of the people had nothing to do to prevent them from attending a revival meeting. The crowds were good considering the number of the people in reach of the town.

Rev. Albert W. Rodgers from somewhere as far as I was concerned just happened on the scene. I suppose he had been invited by J. W. Beck or Robert Sedgwick as he seemed to have been a Cumberland Presbyterian preacher. He was an earnest preacher and his preaching seemed to be approved by all. Many professed faith in Christ and united with the different church organizations as they were brought into being.

This was really a great meeting and it gave rise, no doubt, to the movement for the Cumberland Presbyterians to build a house for their church. This will be dealt with in its proper place in this series of first events.

About 20 years after the above date, while I was living at McLean this same Albert Rodgers, preached there a week. He did not seem like the same preacher in many ways. He was a fervent speaker. He preached in the Methodist church but I forget what his church affiliation was at that time.

Albert Rodgers Northcutt was named for this preacher.

THE FIRST CHURCH HOUSE

The men of the Cumberland Presbyterian church led in a move to build the first church in Silverton. This church is not (in 1947) part of the present Presbyterian church. The move was possible because it was led by J. W. Beck, one of their preachers, and Mr. Sedgwick. This house was built some time during the spring and summer of 1893.

A great many helped with money and labor to build this church and no one was known to claim the church except the Cumberland Presbyterians.

When this church was built it was thrown open for use to all denominations. There were four different church organizations in Silverton and each one held preaching services in this church when a preacher was available. Every body stayed to hear them all.

After a revival meeting in 1898 the original building was enlarged by building an addition to it. By 1899 the other churches were feeling the need of a building of their own. The Methodist and Baptist built in 1899 and organized their own Sunday Schools.

During the six years in the Presbyterian church different men were elected as superintendents. J. A. Northcutt, W. A. P. Matthews were Baptists but served time as superintendents. A. P. Donnell was an old school Presbyterian and he served.

This unity of action on the part of all Christians had its influence for good in bringing them closer together in a common cause. The organization of other churches was only a means to greater service for the community. In such moves they were made to grow by division into more than one body. The bringing together of the church people helped in many ways to make them helpful and sympathetic for each other and cemented friendships which lasted during the life-time of the participants.

BAPTIST CHURCH

J. R. Wright of Wright, Texas, a Post Office near the present town of Kress, Texas, came to Silverton occasionally. Wright was a cow man probably converted after he married. It was said that his wife taught him how to read. He was a pretty good preacher and a fairly successful evangelist. He was noted for hiring cowboys, converting them, and many of them made preachers, one of whom was C. R. (Dick) Stewart.

Mr. Wright organized a Baptist Church at Lakeview School house south of Silverton probably about 1895 or 1896. J. B. Cope of Milo, preached there quite often, and was probably pastor of the church for awhile. J. D. Cooke of near Tulia, Texas, was pastor of the Lakeview Church from 1898 to 1900.

To show the illiteracy of some of the old cowboys whom Wright converted, the following is cited: After a week's meeting in the summer of 1899, on Sunday night at the close of the meeting, one of them unknown to the writer made a little talk to the church, but more especially to the young folks. He said, "Young folks, I want to give you a little advice, Youin's must wake up to yourns's duty."

THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The First Methodist preacher to appear on the scene was W. B. Ford from Floyd or Hale County. Evidently he lived in the northeastern part of Hale County because he had located on land there according to Miss Mary Cox's <u>History of Hale County</u>.

The first sermon that I remember him preaching, was preached in the Fisher-Hanna store. He came once a month when he could get there until the fall of 1892 when Ed R. Wallace was appointed to the Silverton Charge.

Ed R. Wallace lived in Floyd County at or near Della Plain. He came once each month until the fall of 1894 when the church bought a house from W. B. Campbell and Mr. Wallace moved into Silverton. He preached only once each month at Silverton and made other places the other three Sundays.

Mr. Wallace and Mr. T. L. Anderson feel pretty sure that the church was organized in the spring of 1892.

The following famalies were either charter members of the church or became members soon thereafter: T. L. Anderson, L. C. and W. D. Fisher, I. R. Hanna, G. W. Burrows, T. F. Farmer, W. A. Rodgers, and P. L. Crawford family.

One other pastor of this Church during the 1890's was a Mr. Bahlman.

This church was evidently organized in 1892 as were the Methodist and Baptist. I am sorry that I cannot find anybody that has a record of this.

J. W. Beck, a son-in-law of L. M. Landreth, was the first preacher. He and Mr. Landreth had located on section 12, block A. Mr. Beck was also a school teacher and you will find at the proper place that he and his wife taught the first public school at silverton.

The Beck and Landreth families, the family of Robert Sedgwick, R. B. Maxwell, and probably R. P. Carruth were the charter members. I thought there were others, but I do not know.

This church lead the move for the first church building which was erected by community subscriptions in 1893. This was known as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church building. Preaching was done by all denominations in this church. There was a Sunday for each of four organizations.

Prior to the erection of this Church all church services had been at the Hanna-Fisher store for two or three months and at the first public school building from December 1891 to the first of January 1893. Then after the erection of the church building, all church services were held there to at least 1899.

The Presbyterian Church was organized later, probably 1894 or 1895. The charter members were the families of N. M. Dickerson, Mrs. Etta Daniel, A. B. Donnell, R. A. Watson, J. R. Wright.

This church had no regular pastor, but only an occasional preacher. After years and years, when the Presbyterian and Cumberland Presbyterian consolidated, the membership of these two organizations was thrown together.

NOTE: It can truthfully be said that the charter membership of these five organizations and of those joining these organizations in the 1890s and their descendents have all been substaintial citizens even to now.

THE CHURCHES

The Christian Church (now called the Church of Christ) was established about 1892. The first preacher was Charles W. Smith, who lived in Floyd County. Judge J. N. Stalbird often preached when they had no other preacher.

The charter members of the church were the families of J. W. Brooks, D. Brunson, Uncle Jesse and Mrs. Bryant, Job and Mrs. Bryant, W. E. and Mrs. Chambless, L. H. Cooper, wife and several children, Mrs. M. J. Frieze, Mrs. Delilah, Anice, Emma, and Mr. and Mrs. Nat. G. Waller, J. N. Stalbird. Probably the Savage family. Mr. and Mrs. John A. Woods often came from the Quitaque Flats as did Mr. and Mrs. Honea. Mr. W. L. Jewett was the first one to be baptized by this church. Probably George F. Holland was a member as well.

Other preachers coming there besides Smith were Broyles, Vandy, and Earl Arseneau, who began to preach when he was 14 years of age.

EARLY PHYSICIANS

Dr. Isaac H. Watkins was the first physician to lacate in the county. His dwelling was one of the first two built in the town. He left for Arizona, 189___.

Dr. George F. McClendon located, 189____ but later moved to Matador where he died 19____.

Dr. W. M. Burger located about 1895. He had filed on land north of the Tule Canon somewhere before coming to Silverton.

Dr. L. G. Oxford located about 1895 or 1896. He did not stay long.

Dr. W. O. Brown located in the spring of 1897 and was here until the fall of 1903.

Dr. B. L. Jenkins bought Dr. Brown's house in 1903 and lived here one year when he sold to Dr. J. W. Vermillion.

Dr. Joseph Ponder located about 1902 and was here about two years when he moved to Hale Center.

Dr. Elihu C. Puckett located in 1898 and continued to practice until his death, April 15, 1902.

Dr. M. D. Bell and Dr. J. Ed Crawford located in 1905. Dr. Bell was there several years and Dr. Crawford moved to Tulia in 1915.

Other physicians were Drs. J. J. Breaker, Charles E. Donnell, J. E. Minyard and O. T. Bundy.

THE FIRST COURTHOUSE

The county was organized March 15, 1892 but there was no courthouse. A small shack had been built on the west side of the street west of the courthouse. This was really a small affair and it seems to me the roof was more or less flat with some rounding as to cause water to run from it.

This little house was occupied by the county and District clerk, T. L. Anderson until around the first of January, 1893.

One evening after school several of the school children went up on the street. The teacher, J. W. Beck, being a preacher also, performed the ceremony that joined in wedlock Mr. John T. Wimberly and Mrs. Josie Allen.

It seems one of the first things the county commissioner's court did was to start the erection of a courthouse. This was a two story affair and did duty for a good many years.

The contract to build the house was let to W. C. Cheney. It is certain that he was from Rush County, Texas and that he knew J. S. Hogg who was running for governor that summer. At any rate, Mr. Cheney called a meeting of the men of the community and told them what a wonderful man J. S. Hogg was. Being a big over-grown boy it seemed to me that it was something wonderful that a man could know another man that was smart enough to run for governor. That was undoubtedly the first political speech ever made in Silverton for governor. Yes, for any other person as far as it is known.

I have no knowledge as to whom worked on the building of this courthouse. Lumber had to be hauled from Amarillo and all in all it was helpful to those who were able to do anything toward its building as it brought some money into the hands of those who worked on the building as well as to others. Probably the house

did not cost over $2,000 or $3,000 at most. However, a dollar in those days, campared with a dollar of 1947, would look as large as a 16 inch automobile tire.

The seats were in place in the district court room and the town's second Christmas tree was held here as I have mentioned in another place. This tree was held here as it was the most conventient place. This tree was a knockout when compared to all the other trees that it has been my lot to see anywhere.

Pretty soon after the first of the year, 1893, the county officials moved into this house and each had an office even though it was small. Everything was small in the way of houses. A one-room shack and half-dugouts were good places to keep warm and good meals could be had at nearly any place you might go.

When the courthouse was finished religious services were held here until the first church was erected. Bro. I. H. Kimbrough of Plainview, Texas was preaching one day when he told a story about a Mr. Hooper that did not believe there was any God. Some of Hooper's friends using phosphorous wrote on the wall of his bedroom, "Prepare to meet thy God, Oh Hooper." Thinking it was the handwriting on the wall Mr. Hooper became very much distrubed.

The first cases to the pen from here were two men that had stolen some horses from DeGraffen Reid. The sheriff, Miner Crawford, arrested them and they were given two years.

Something happened that we were at the courthouse the evening they were sentenced. They seemed to be nice appearing young fellows. The idea that they were to be sent to the Penitentiary bothered me considerably. Judge H. H. Wallace was the District Judge and D. B. Hill was the District Attorney. The District covered all the Panhandle. Judge Wallace was quite a popular Judge in his entire District.

BUILDING THE JAIL

The little rock jail standing on the northeast corner of the courthouse square looks rather bleak as compared with new buildings all over Silverton. This little building to me is worth preserving for a few more years.

This jail was built in the spring and summer of 1894. The sand was hauled from the Tule Canon and stone were quarried some where near the road leading to the Tule. The contract was let to George L. Lamar, a contractor under whom A. P. Donnell had worked during the summer of 1890 at Seymour, Texas. Lamar and William H. Brown were the stone masons, Virgin R. Bomar the carpenter and A. P. Donnell, H. C. Seaman and Frank D. Galloway were the laborers.

Cris Seaman was rather fleshy and when the foundation was finished he decided to quit the job. T. H. (Eph) Stevenson was procured to take his place. Eph stayed on the job until the first scaffold was built to get the material up to the men on the wall, then, he failed to show up for further work.

A. P. Donnell received $2.50 per day and I suppose the other men were similarly paide. When Eph quit father told Lamar that he believed his oldest son could do the work as he had had experience mixing mortar. Bring him on and I will give him $1.75 per day. There is where I came into the picture. My former experience was gained at Seymour when I was 14 years of age.

Then, I drew $.75 per day mixing mortar and carrying water for 8 men while they did the work. The block of stone buildings stands northeast of the main business district in Seymour, Texas.

This group of men and the boy stayed on the job until the jail was finished and the capstone was placed. So, 'we builded the jail'.

This jail was probably instrumental in keeping our family on the Plains. As badly as I wanted a good saddle the money was needed to defray expenses for family use. Other boys were going to work for the JAs and XITs but I got no saddle.

The carpenters were about to be over looked. Virgil Bomar was head carpenter and I feel pretty sure that Tom Northcutt was helping him.

CEMETERY

During October, 1891, the community was shocked to hear of the death of little Tommie Corry. She was probably 4 or 5 years of age as she was under school age. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Corry and a sister of Retta and May Corry.

This was the first burial in the present cemetery. There had been two people buried west of town on the northeast corner of section 17, block A. Mrs. Davis the mother of A. (Bud) Davis and a man who had drowned in a lake the latter part of June or the first part of July, 1891. These remains were later removed to the present cemetery. The drowned man was a Mr. G. W. Harley.

The second grave in the cemetery was for a Mr. Turner who had died on the head of the Ross Canon near the site of Roy McMurtry's Ranch home. Mr. Turner moved there from Baylor County with a Mr. Beeler and a Mr. Tubbs. Mr. Turner had a girl living with them by the name of Viola Buffalo who later married W. A. Malcolm who settled on section 96 adjoining Silverton on the east. The present cemetery was located on part of that section.

I helped dig these first two graves and several others. I think the last one that I helped dig was that for Warner Reid and Bob Christian who were killed at a JA round-up northwest of the Mackenzie crossing of the Tule Canon, Oct. 23, 1895. They were buried Oct. 24, 1895. Warner was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Moses H. Reid who lived on the west line of Briscoe County. He was a brother of George W. W. and Oscar Reid and Kate Reid. Bob Christian was a brother of Jim and Bill Christian we have known so well.

THE EX-CONFEDERATE REUNION

Many people of the Panhandle and West Texas will be surprized to know that the ex-confederate Reunion had its origin in Silverton, Texas, at a 4th of July celebration, July 4, 1895.

After the dinner had been served many of the ex-soldiers gathered in the shade of the courthouse. Many were the yarns spun about the Civil War and other things. Finally some one suggested that they have a reunion some where soon.

Some of those who took part in the organization were J. R. Wright, R. A. Watson, D. H. (Pat) Sweeney, J. A. Northcutt, J. A. Crawford and others from Briscoe county as well as several men from Swisher county.

Some kind of organization was perfected and it was agreed that they have the reunion September 5th and 6th, 1895 at the Mackenzie crossing of the Tule Canon. It was agreed to invite every soldier in the Panhandle and West Texas, especially those living in the area between Amarillo and Lubbock.

Officers of some kind were elected and committees were appointed to arrange for this reunion. A committee composed of M. P. Stone, John Forgerson and Charles Donnell was appointed to dig the pit in which the meat was to be barbecued.

People came from far and near in wagons, hacks and one horseback. Two days of speaking and talking were enjoyed by those present. However, the younger set spent most of their time riding the flying Jinny pulled by a little mule.

This was repeated August 5th and 6th, 1896 at the same place. Then, Plainview, Texas 1897-98 and 1899. It was moved to Canyon, Texas and continued for several years.

This ex-Confederate organization became known as the "W. B. Plemons" something for Judge Plemons.

During the 1900s the Cowboy's reunion was added to it and it was usually spoken of as the Old Soldier's and Cowboy's Reunion from then on. There was calf roping and broncho riding added in 1900 which events continued to the end.

These reunions were well attended by people especially from the surrounding counties while at Plainview. They turned the milk-pen calves out and drove over to Plainview.

The writer attended the reunions in 1895, 1897, 98, 99 and 1900 and 1901.

These reunions were successful from many angles. They brought the people from the different counties together and many found friends they had known before at other places. Many new friends were made which in after years were to add to their knowledge of the people in the various counties.

This first reunion was probably the first general gathering of the people of the Plains. The location on the Tule for the first two reunions was ideal. Plenty of water and grass for the horses. Here was the site of the killing of the horses and mules by General Mackenzie at the head of the Tule Canon with the natural camp ground of the Indians, just over the hill from the bone yard, where the Indians had possibly camped during the summer and fall while they kept a vigil over the horses and mules which had been stolen and brought here to fatten for trading. From here they possibly went out to kill the buffalo for winter meat. The legend of the camp, the killing of the horses and mules and the removal of the Indians were all gone over and over by those at the reunion.

Every boy large enough to have a pony and saddle came horseback for all these boys were potential cowboys in the making. There were some cowboys with real ranch jobs and most of these worked for the Tule Ranch. All young boys had an ambition to be cowboys, and while they envied the cowboys their jobs in a way, they had an admiration for them.

Such gatherings usually have some things happen that stick to you. Johnnie Barnes of Tulia while square dancing had about all his short legs could do to keep up with his partner. The old seasoned cowboy, Bob Bishop, who was at that time boss of the Tule Ranch, was dancing with a pretty girl in her early teens which he married in a short time. They lived happily ever after - and still live at Duncan, Arizona.

Mr. F. M. Faulkner had some fine registered Hereford cattle here. The first most of us had seen. Faulkner at that time lived in Swisher County but the writer knew him at McLean and Canyon, Texas. He died in Plainview, Texas not many years ago.

There was a little horse race. Siler or Bob Faulkner rode a little sorrel while some other man rode the other horse. Possibly it was Allen Boren. They ran about 100 yards. The time killed getting ready and the short race made it rather dull.

GRASS HOPPERS

You may ask any one living on the Plains during the 1890s what year the grass hoppers were the worst, and they will give one and sometimes two years that they were the worst. Some will say it was 1892; others say 1893; still others will tell you it was 1894. Why this variation in dates?

This plague of grass hoppers was termed the "Army Hoppers". They traveled in army size. These armies were of various sizes. Some armies would cover from one to three sections of land. They invariably moved northeastward. Just why they moved in that direction has been a subject of debate. The wind was ordinarily from the southwest and this possibly had more to do with the movement of the hoppers than did the rotation of the earth. However, the rotation of the earth is the main factor in giving us a clear southwest wind - when there is no storm center affecting the country.

In Floyd and Hale Counties the hoppers were worst in 1893, while in Briscoe they were worst in 1893 and 1894. Near the south County line in the vicinity of the Applewhite, A. C. Wimberly, Dick Savage and the W. E. Burleson and west on the Francis location, an army of hoppers hatched out in the early summer of 1893. During July they were centered over section 38 Block B 2. This section of land was the first to be fenced to inself in all that part of the County. J. E. Daniel and myself fenced it in July, 1893. The hoppers were so thick that one going toward the wind on horseback could only go in a walk or a short trot without the hoppers raising into your face. The land was dry. We managed to get a hole 6 to 8 inches deep and would then fill it with water so that we could dig deeper.

The next morning I would finish the digging of the holes to a depth of 20 to 22 inches.

This army of hoppers continued their march northeastward dying along the line in the early fall. This line was east and west for several sections. One group of hoppers died on section 15 block A. Other armies were at various places.

The last of May, 1894 these hoppers hatched right where the others had died. Those that hatched on the above mentioned section began to move northward. Their travel at first was slow as they could only hop. Later as wings developed they came a little faster. They reached our field in which there were about 8 acers of oats nearly ready to cut. Father knew, I guess, we had better cut the oats. The oats were mowed but when we tried to rake them the blades were all off the stalks. None had been cut until the oats were flat on the ground. We lived on section number 6.

Our chickens were needing more feed than they were getting so they were turned out to help clean up the hoppers. However, we could not eat the eggs. This shows how important it is to know what your chickens eat.

This army of hoppers continued northward until they had jumped off into Ross Canyon. That was the last hoppers we had.

The migration of these hoppers was watched through the two seasons. This is the way they did.

A hopper I observed was a small grey one with his wings folded. As he rose from the ground in flight he was grey with a tinge of pale yellow and light black. These hoppers ate anything.

A BEAR HUNT

During December, 1895, T. J. Braidfoot and Fred Braidfoot; Frank D. Galloway, who worked for S. J. Arnold, and Little John Arnold, were getting wood and posts from Coon Canyon some six miles north from Silverton. Little John Arnold was not the John Arnold who married Gertrude Braidfoot. These boys were cousins and Little John lived in Tennessee. He spent the winter of 1895-96 with his Uncle S. J. Arnold and returned to his home.

Mr. Braidfoot found bear signs in a canyon within Coon Canyon and decided on a plan for a bear hunt. He invited R. F. Stevenson Sr, Uncle Bob and Capt. D. H. (Pat) Sweeney to join in the hunt. These men had hunted bear in Louisiana some time during their lives, but as far as I know, and believe, they never knew each other in the state of Louisana.

The Braidfoots and Stevensons had filed on what was generally known as homestead land around the mouth of Dinner Creek and other places near by.

The day was set and the time was the week before Christmas, 1895. These three men, Frank Galloway, John Arnold, Art Frieze, Little Bob Stevenson, Fred Braidfoot, and Charles Donnell went to the site of the wood chopping area in the Coon Canyon.

The next morning Eph Stevenson, Harry Braidfoot and Fred Biffle were to come up the Coon Canyon from the river. Plans were made for the three older men to get into the lower canyon and we boys were to make a drive on the sides of this canyon. Little Bob Stevenson and John Arnold took the west side while Art Frieze, Fred Braidfoot and Charles Donnell took the east side.

The Three men started earlier than the drivers so as to enable them to be in the canyon before the bear jumped.

In less than an hour our Little Bob Stevenson and Joe Arnold sighted the bear, a mother bear and three cubs, which took off into the canyon where the men were to be. Luckily the men were exactly at the right spot, as the bear came down the bluff. Firing began and soon the mother bear was down and two of the cubs. The other cub taking fright ran to a small canyon, and while going out up the bluff on the opposite side. Little Bob Stevenson shot him in the back as he ran; he rolled up into a ball and came tumbling to the bottom of the arroyo.

These shots attracted us and we made haste to go to the place indicated by them. Volunteers were called to go back to the camp for horses to pack (Missouri word, but it seems to fit) the bear to the camp. Art, Fred Braidfoot and myself agreed to go. The camp was probably a mile away but it was hard going on foot. When we reached the camp we were all but starved. We ate a baked hen that my mother had placed into my chuck box and everything else in sight. By the time we got back to the arroyo where the bears were killed they had them on the bluff ready to be loaded onto the horses. My little pony, Dick, carried the mother bear. We made it to camp and began to cook bear meat. A cub was skinned and started cooking in skillets. Frank Galloway made sour dough biscuits, almost like no one else could make them, and Uncle Tom Braidfoot began to assemble the chittlings to make a big 'Son-of-gun stew'. We began to eat the bean steak and biscuits and to drink coffee.

The older men assured us that bear meat would not make us sick. Capt. Pat Sweeney had some 'Big Bale' tobacco which we all tried to smoke and the older men told of their bear hunts and other interesting stories. Along in the early part of the night the stew was sampled to see if it were getting done. Of course all had a sample of it. Before midnight it was all gone. It had vanished 'into the empty heirs'.

During the latter part of the night snow to the extent of 2 or 3 inches fell, and our beds were covered with it when we awoke the next morning. Because of the snow, it was thought advisable to try around for more bear. After an all morning search no signs of bear were found. We returned to camp, ate dinner, divided the remainder of the meat and left for home.

Why do I tell this story you might ask? First of all, I suppose it was the only one of its kind ever pulled in the County. I read a brief account of this by Little Bob Stevenson in a book prepared by some History Class in Silverton.

I might add that Little Bob Stevenson was R. F. Stevenson Jr, a son of R. F. Stevenson referred to above. He was cowboy, stockman, and sheriff of the county and often was referred to as a friend of everyone.

At this date - 1948- all these men are passed to the great beyond except Frank Galloway who lives at Hot Springs, New Mexico - and myself.

THE SECOND SCHOOL IN SILVERTON

The county was organized March 15, 1892, but as yet there was no money for a public school. Rev. J. W. Beck taught another subscription school during April and May of 1892. There are no records of the school and I have been unable to find any one that can give me an idea of the personnel of the student body. Some of the same pupils that were in the first school were there to be sure with probably a few others. The only definite thing about them in my mind is that Clark Morris and I went to and from this School horseback. This evidently meant that our family was not otherwise represented.

The school continued until bare grass was in full bloom and Clark and I carried stalks loaded with blooms to the school and gave them to the girls.

After the county was organized in 1892 the different school districts were outlined and trustees elected. The first trustees elected were John A. Cooper, A. P. Donnell and ______.

THE FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL IN SILVERTON

Preparations were made for a school to begin in September. J. W. Beck and his wife Mrs. Stella Beck, were employed to teach this first public school. This was the third school but the first PUBLIC school. However, there were some kind of schools started at different localities by this time such as Milo, Lakeview, Etc.

This school ran from the first of September to Christmas and again in the spring but with what intermissions I do not remember. It was probably of 2 or 3 months duration.

THE FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL

There were two other girls that went either to this first public school or the second that did not live with their folks. Viola Buffalo was one and she lived with Mr. Turner on Ross Canyon. She later married Malcolm. Cornelia Bryant from Old Estacado probably stayed with the Braidfoots and went awhile. Lettie Wells Sweatt came from somewhere and was in school at the first public school or the second. She married Dr. George F. McClendon.

The boys were still playing 'Scrub' but baseballs were scarce on the Plains as lumber or hen's teeth. We made a ball by pushing a long leaden bullet into a nut off a bolt. Mr. J. A. Northcutt covered it with buckskin after it had been wrapped with twine as tightly as it could be drawn. This looked like a baseball and acted like one until the leaden nut began to cut its way out. Then, foul balls were the order of the day and my, how they could hit the catcher in the face.

George Northcutt and myself being the two older and largest boys did most of the catching behind the bat. Some times we had a leather glove that some man had thrown away that we used to protect out hands. Harry Braidfoot and Sam Donnell did most of the pitching while the other boys changed positions as one would be put out.

Most of our relationships as students were very friendly as we were continuning our acquaintances. There were no fights and order on the play ground was good. It is to the credit of these boys that you can say,"The most of them who still live are the best of friends and have been all these years. The girls of course were very, very good."

EARLY SCHOOLS

There was built a little school house near the southwest corner of D. H. (Pat) Sweeney's field. While we were building the jail it town Pat Sweeney, T. J. Morris and H. C. Seaman began to prevail on me to teach school out there. I told them frankly that I did not know any thing about how to teach school. All that I knew was how to spell and work arithmetic.

Finally after considerable solicitation and some little encouragement from father, I decided to try my hand. Many things come along to change the course of a life or the course of his conduct to say the least. One can not be the architect of his own fortune because we come into contact with so many different people. Many of them actually change our plans and in many instances our own lives.

Children attending this school were: Laura Bruce: Samuel, Lemuel, Bertha and Leora Donnell; Robert and Mattie Janes; Clark, Wylie and Florence Morris; May, Henry and Delia Seaman; Maud, Hiram and Lonnie Sweeney; Maggie, Anna, Robert and May Watson; then in the spring of 1895, carrie and Willie Cooper and a boy that W. L. Jewett had with him that we called Willie Jewett.

It was surprising to all the success we had. There was encouragement on the part of the patrons and a splendid co-operation on the part of the students in school. All my ideas of school teaching that I possessed had been gained from my former teachers, W. B. Hill, J. E. Daniel, J. W. Beck and Prof. H. D. Fletcher.

One little incident to show what little I knew and how self-conscious and backward I was might be of passing interest. Judge Stalbird informed me on Saturday that there would be an institute at Milo the following Friday and Saturday. He told me to be sure to be on hand. Judge Stalbird later became my friend and encouraged me greatly but up to now he was the county judge and far away from me. I do not have the courage to go Friday but on Saturday morning after talking with my mother it seems best that I should go. I saddled 'Old Roan' and went across the Tule Canon to Milo. The meeting was in progress when I arrived. After awhile Judge Stalbird announced that we would have a few minutes recess, after which, we would discuss grammer in the Primary Grades and that he would ask me to open the discussion; That I would be followed by George Cope. My recess was a fight with myself. As soon as all were seated the Judge called me to the floor. I started off with a few statements. There was the entire community of Milo looking me right in the eyes and my words would hit the wall in front of me and fly back and slap me in the face. There I stood; dumbfounded and blushing red; pretty soon I managed to say, that the Judge had said that George Cope would follow me; well, as far as I am concerned he can have it now. I sat down and realized that my feeble effort was an ignominious failure.

Four years later after I had been to Teacher's college and had been teaching several months it was in this self same house that I had another chance. When I finished Uncle Willis Malone, who had swallowed every word that I had said,

arose, extended his hand and said,"Well, Charlie, you have redeemed yourself." The whole community was there again and they were very nice to me. I cherished those words and have continued to think of them over these years as words well spoken right out of the big heart of a man like Uncle Willis Malone. You know an old, bashful boy has to put up with a lot of discouraging things, and words of commendation and encouragemwnt are like a healing balm to his very soul.

This school house was 7 miles from a corner of Silverton -4 west and 3 miles north. Later I also taught at Lakeview and Rock Creek both of which are 7 miles from the southwest corner of Silverton.

When, Cris Seaman was elected Tax-assessor in 1896 be bought the house and moved it to Silverton. He lived in it for some time and later J. A. Northcutt lived in it with some additions.

One sad thing that happened during the fall of 1894 was the death of Mrs. Seaman.

While the school went along about as others of the County it appeared to me that if one were going to teach school he should be prepared for the task better than I. There seemed to be no chance for me to go to school and no one ever suggested that it might be worth-while for me to go. I did not want to go on teaching school like that. There seemed nothing else to do but get a job on the ranch. I went to Bob Bishop on the Tule Division of the JAs and he promised me a job beginning Sep. 25, 1895.

Again other events changed my course, just as they have many of you who read this. During the winter I went to Warrensburg, Missouri to a Normal College were teachers are how to teach.

I came home in the spring of 1897 having been away for a little more than a year. During the summer I attended a 'Summer Normal' in the city of Plainview and procured a 2nd grade certificate to teach any where in the state of Texas.

SNOWS AND SNOW STORMS

The first real blizzard after we came to Briscoe County was at Silverton while the first Christmas tree was in progress, Christmas Eve, 1891. The wind was very cold.

Many of the people that were at the Christmas tree remained in the school house during the night. Our family was there in a wagon and we made it home in the thick of the storm.

Just how cold it was would be merely a guess. However, it was pretty cold.

Much has been written and said of the wind of the 1890s. The wind really blew, and what I mean, it blew during the dry period from 1892 to 1897.

The first big snow storm during the 1890s fell on Sunday, January 28, 1895. The snow began falling about 11 O'Clock Sunday morning and continued to fall well into the night. The depth of this snow ranged from one to two feet on the level in Briscoe County. This snow storm was issued in by strong wind; there was enough wind to roll the snow in duduly swells. This was the beginning of a month of cold weather.

Consult the weather report from the Amarillo Weather bureau and you will see that January had 160 inches of moisture while February had 192 inches.

In another article, you will find mentioned a trip to Clarendon by I. R. Hanna, Fred Biffle, and myself, made on April 5, 1895.

The wind blew from the west at a teriffic rate during the entire day. During the night the wind shifted to the northwest

west and some snow came with it. This snow was drifted behind all up-standing objects, or near the side of buildings. The temperature was pretty low; However, we had no means of telling just how low.

The next bad storm came during the night of Friday, December 8, 1898. This was a blizzard of no mean proportions. Ask J. A. Christian, Willie Morris, Henry Hastings, or some four or five JA cowboys who were trying to get a herd of JA cattle into the Palo Duro Canyon.

The weather bureau at Amarillo shows 2.60 inches of moisture during December, 1898.

Everybody remembers the February spell of 1899. Some are badly off on the days that were so cold. This storm came in with a vengeance early Saturday morning February 11, 1899 dry and cold and with a hard wind. Sunday the 12th was a cold day. Amarillo, I believe, reported a low of 16 degrees below zero. M. H. Reid, on the Swisher-Briscoe County line, reported 17 degrees below zero. This dry blizzard went out, as it came in, in a hurry.

Another snow storm that no one has written anything about came Tuesday and Wednesday, February 25 and 26, 1903. Tuesday morning rain began to fall and continued incessantly until 10 A. M. Wednesday morning, when snow began to fall. This snowfall was heavy and continued well into the night, the following night. Cattle had stood in rain one night and in snow another night.

The following night they went down into the mud, many of them could never get up from such a bed. The loss of cattle

was greater in Briscoe, Swisher, and Castro, and other counties in parts of the Panhandle, especially when it rained than at any other time since. The losses amounted to some 5 per cent to as much as 75 per cent of many of the cowmen in this area.

A snow storm of no mean proportion came Saturday and Sunday, the 11th and 12th of February, 1905. This was exactly five years from the blizzard of 1899 occurring on the same days of the week and month as that storm. The weather bureau shows 1.52 inches of moisture.

We were in Fort Worth during this winter. It was cold and every thing iced over. The ice on the streets was from one to two inches thick. No vehicles were noticed on the streets except beer and meat wagons. The horses were shod with spiked shoes.

One of the worst storms of the Panhandle occurred Sunday, November 18, 1906. There was lots of snow, and wind caused the worst drifting of any storms that has been in these parts. We lived at McLean on the Rock Island Railway. The westbound passenger train reached Shamrock that evening. The same train came into McLean the following Sunday, the 25th of November, 1906. During the week snow engines equiped with a kind of a plow accompanied with around 30 Greeks tried to bucket it off the tracks. The snow had filled in the railroad 'cuts', and they had poor luck. Probably the Greeks could have shoveled the snow out faster without the assistance of the engine.